

KIRKMAN • OTTLEY • RATHBURN • PLASCENCIA

INVINCIBLE



VOLUME TWELVE

STILL STANDING





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INVINCIBLE, VOL. 12: STILL STANDING.
Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office
of publication: 2134 Allston Way, 2nd
Floor, Berkeley, California 94704.
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ISBN: 978-1-60706-166-3

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CHAPTER ONE



MONTHS AGO.

OH,
GOD.

OH,
GOD.

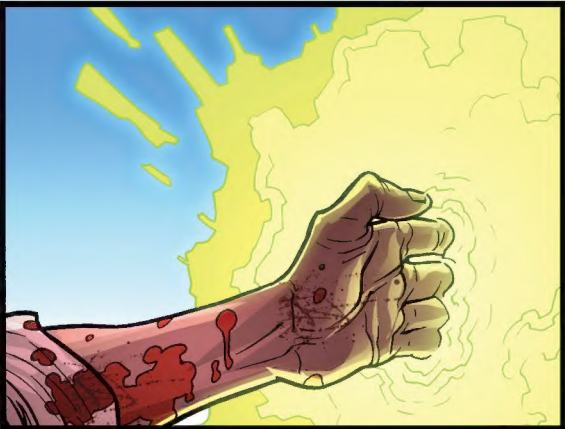
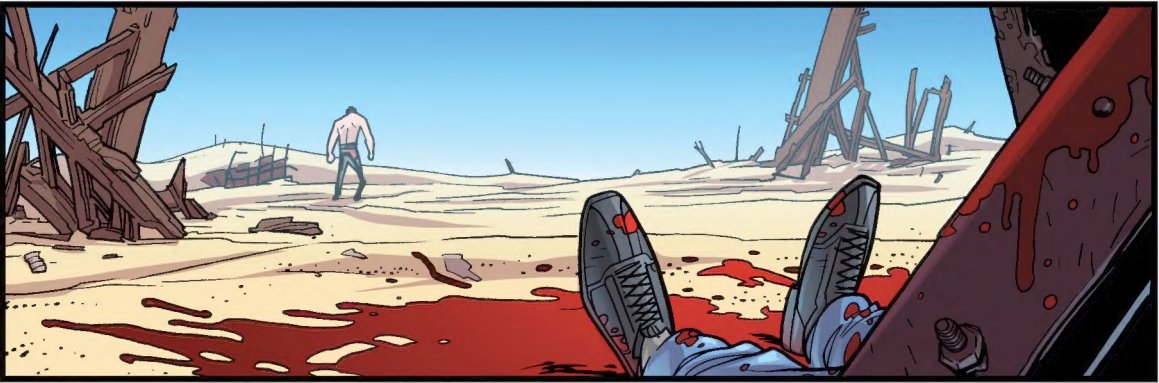
OH,
GOD.

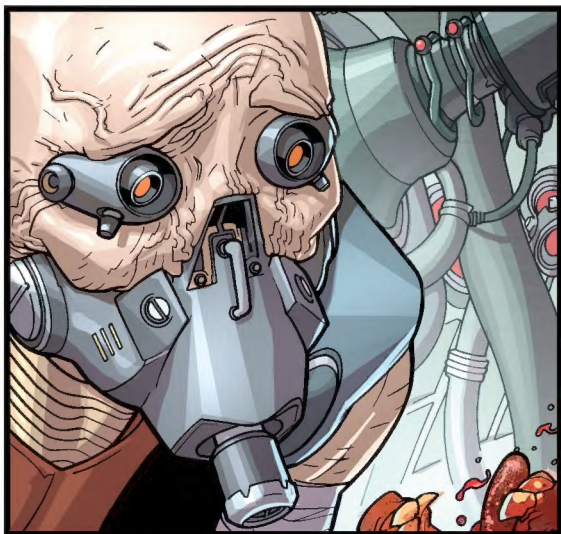
OH,
GOD.

OH,
GOD.

OH,
GOD.





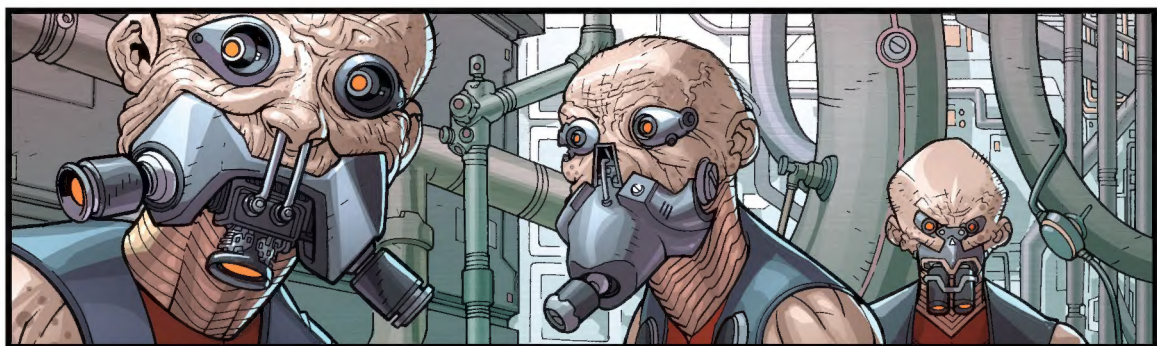


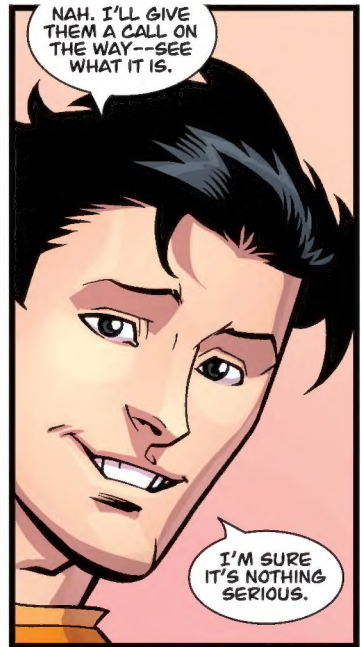
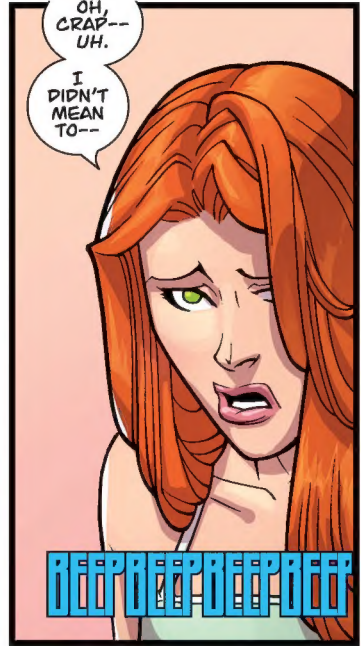
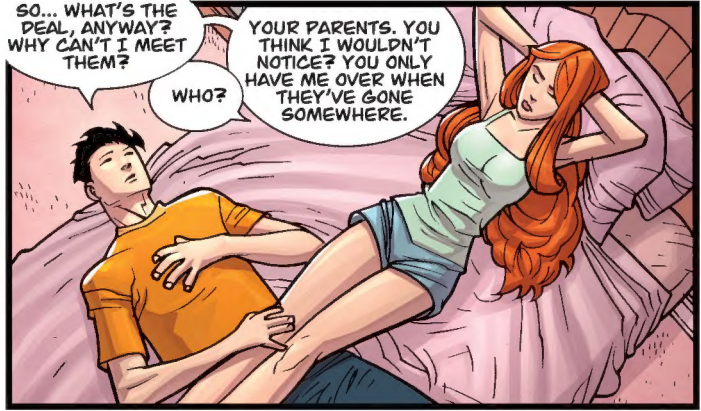
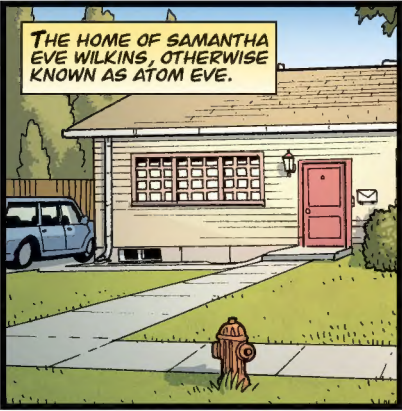
MONTHS LATER.

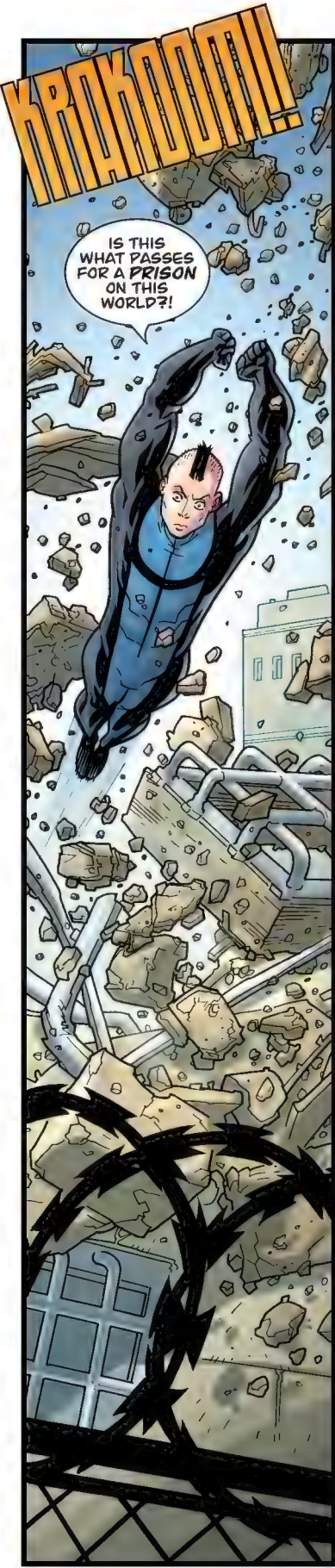


Now.

DAY ONE.







IS THIS
WHAT PASSES
FOR A PRISON
ON THIS
WORLD?!



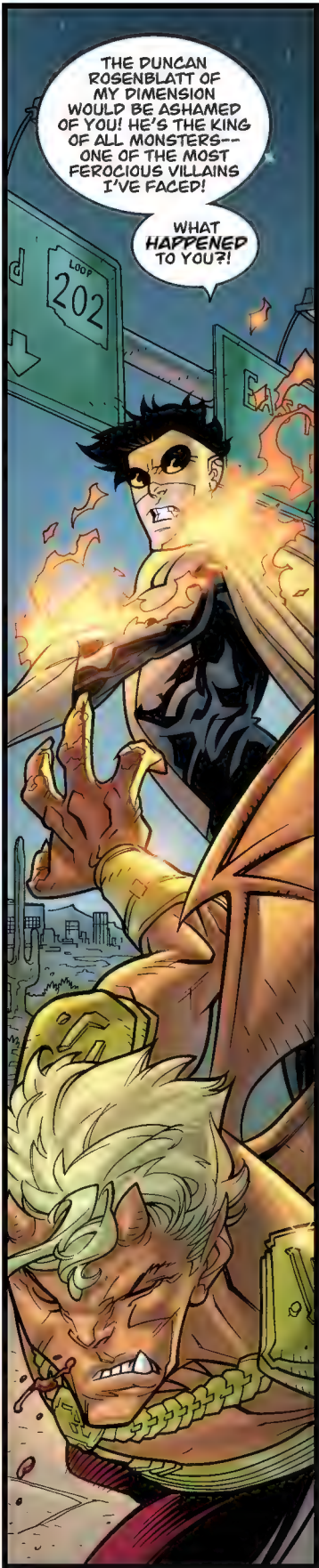
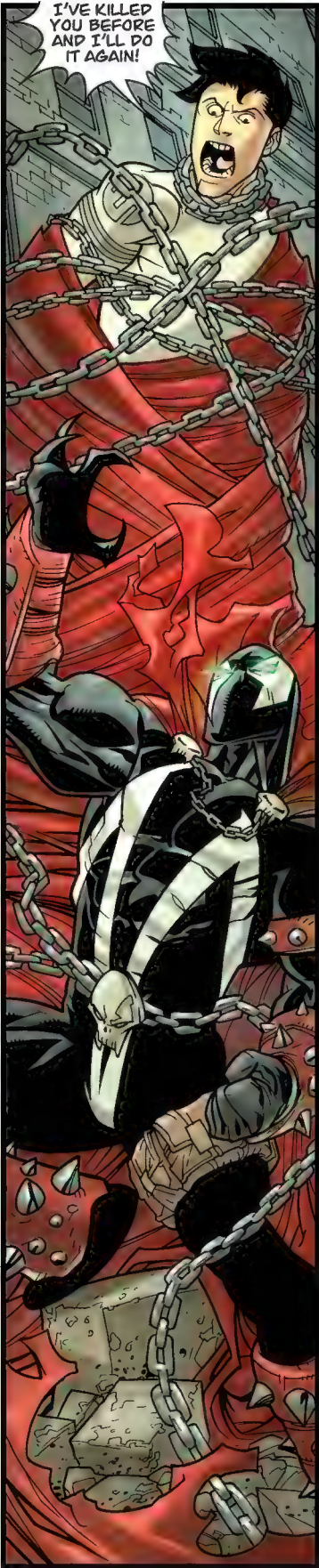
PATHETIC!

I WOULDN'T
EVEN KEEP YOU
AS A SLAVE IN
MY EMPIRE!



AFTER
NEARLY A
YEAR IN A
VILTRUMITE
PRISON--I
COULD USE
THIS WARM-
UP!

RUN!
FLEE! THIS
IS NOTHING
COMPARED
TO WHAT I'M
GOING TO DO
TO MY FATHER
WHEN I FIND
HIM!



STOP THIS! WE'RE TOO
EVENLY MATCHED--
JUST STOP! THIS COULD
GO ON FOREVER!

STOP FIGHTING
AND TELL ME HOW
YOU GOT HERE--
WHO BROUGHT YOU
HERE?! HOW DID
YOU GET TO THIS
DIMENSION?!

KROOM!

YOU'LL GET NO ANSWERS
FROM ME! I WILL NEVER
YIELD TO YOU. IT SICKENS
ME TO EVEN LOOK
AT YOU.

A LESSER VERSION OF ME--
A PALE REFLECTION. I'LL SEE
YOUR BRAINS SMEARED
ACROSS MY KNUCKLES
BEFORE I BOW
BEFORE YOU.

I'LL--

WROKK!

**SHUT
UP!**

KROOM!

WHAT
THE HELL
IS--

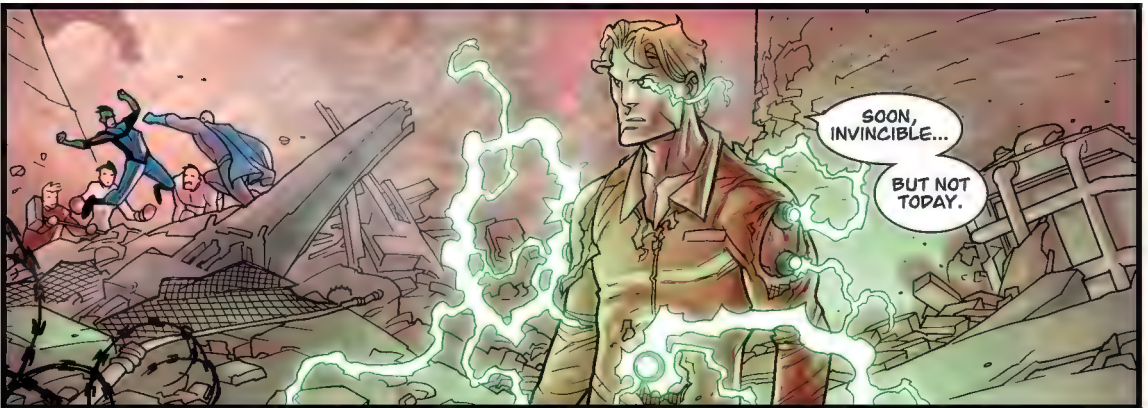
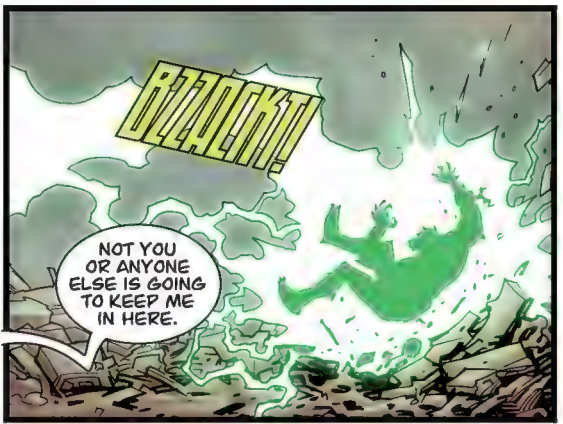
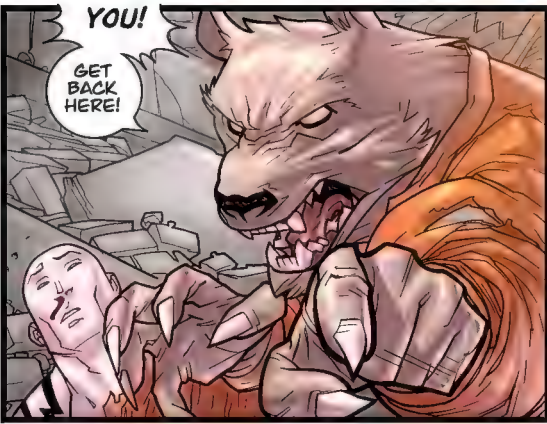
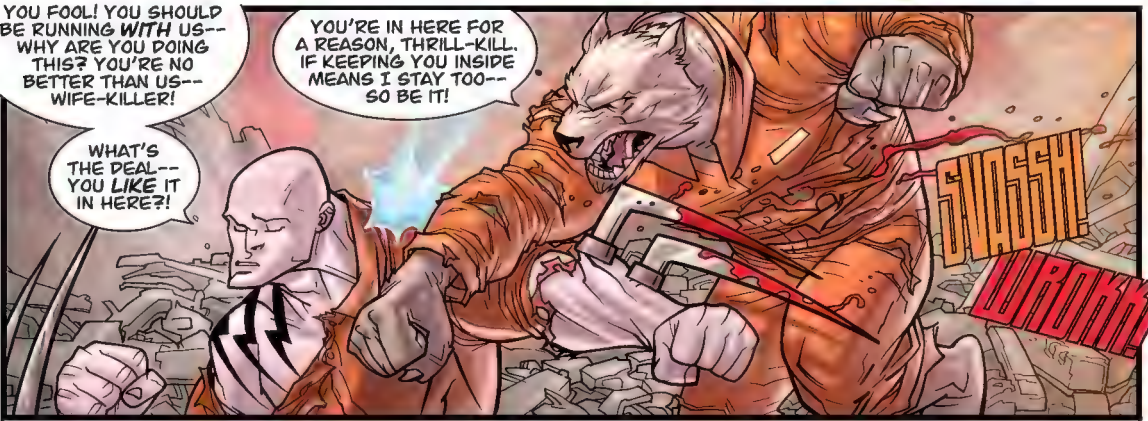
HEY!

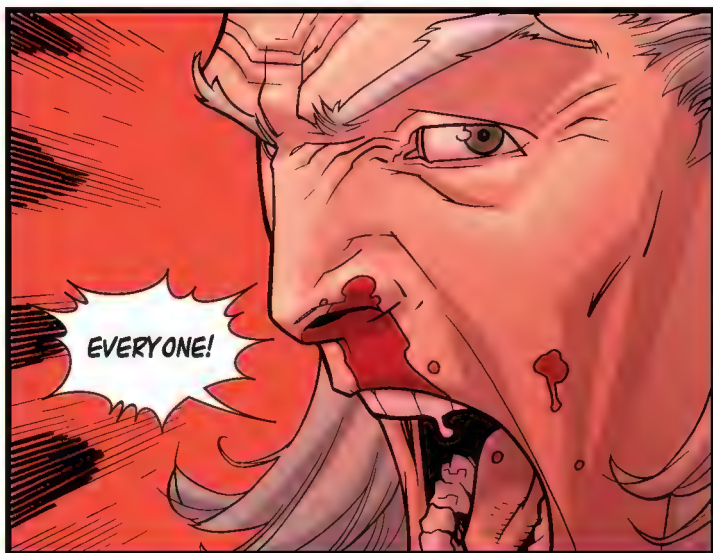
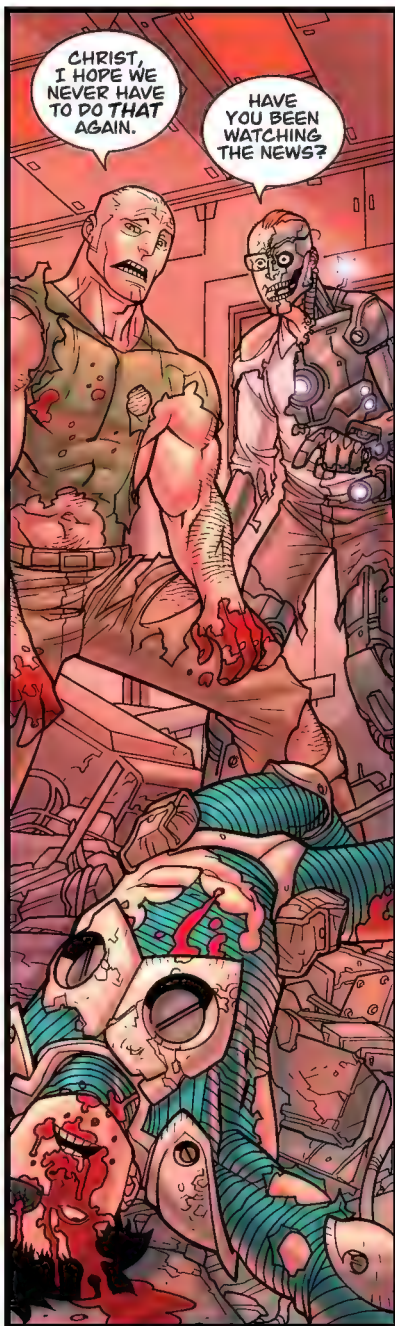
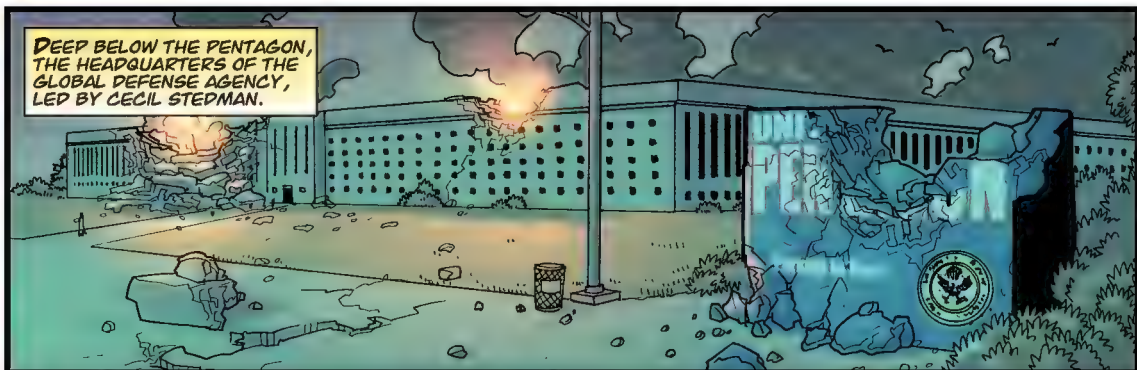
THERE'S ANOTHER
ONE--**GET HIM!** WE'VE
GOT TO STOP THESE
BASTARDS BEFORE
IT'S TOO LATE!

WHAT?!

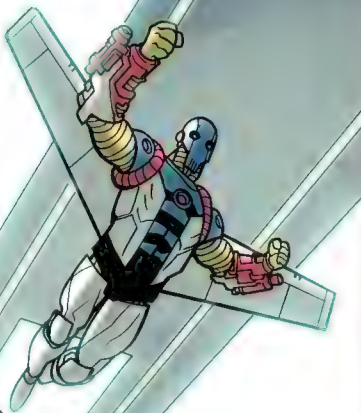
GUYS--
IT'S ME!

IT'S--!





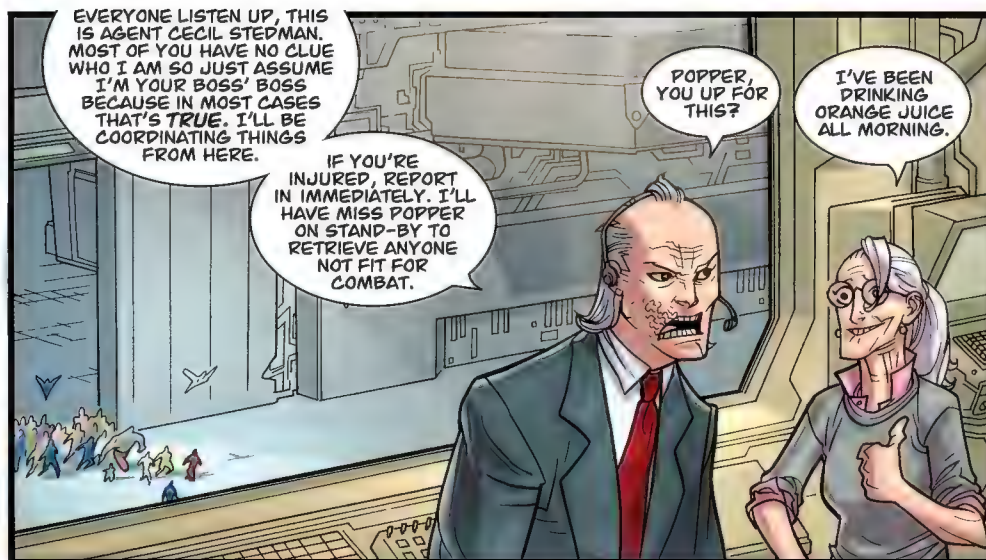
DAY TWO.



SPREAD OUT AND ENTER THE TRANSPORT WINDOWS, DOUBLE TIME! BE READY FOR WHATEVER FACES YOU WHEN YOU EMERGE, DROP POINTS ARE BEING CHOSEN AT RANDOM-- WE'VE GOT NO TIME FOR SPECIFIC MATCH-UPS.

WE'VE GOT MULTIPLE THREATS, MULTIPLE LOCATIONS-- THIS SITUATION IS DIRE, I WANT CONTINUAL UPDATES ON THE COMLINKS, IF YOU'RE DOWN WE NEED TO KNOW IMMEDIATELY SO REPLACEMENTS CAN BE DISPATCHED.

LET'S SAVE THE WORLD, PEOPLE!

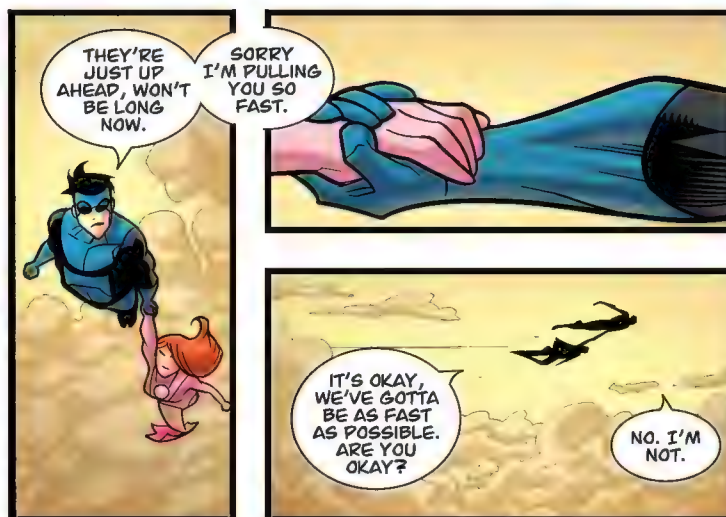


EVERYONE LISTEN UP, THIS IS AGENT CECIL STEPMAN. MOST OF YOU HAVE NO CLUE WHO I AM SO JUST ASSUME I'M YOUR BOSS' BOSS BECAUSE IN MOST CASES THAT'S TRUE. I'LL BE COORDINATING THINGS FROM HERE.

IF YOU'RE INJURED, REPORT IN IMMEDIATELY. I'LL HAVE MISS POPPER ON STAND-BY TO RETRIEVE ANYONE NOT FIT FOR COMBAT.

POPPER, YOU UP FOR THIS?

I'VE BEEN DRINKING ORANGE JUICE ALL MORNING.



THEY'RE JUST UP AHEAD, WON'T BE LONG NOW.

SORRY I'M PULLING YOU SO FAST.

IT'S OKAY, WE'VE GOTTA BE AS FAST AS POSSIBLE. ARE YOU OKAY?

NO. I'M NOT.

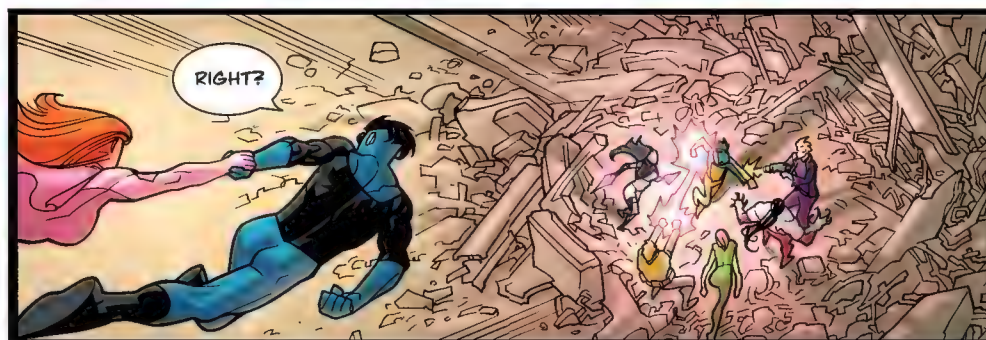
THEY'RE ALL ME. I'M NOT DOING THIS--BUT I CAN'T HELP BUT--I LOOKED IN HIS EYES AND I SAW MYSELF. I FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THIS.

BEYOND THAT--IT'S OTHER VERSIONS OF ME. FROM OTHER DIMENSIONS...



I ONLY KNOW OF ONE MAN WHO HAS THE POWER TO ACCESS OTHER DIMENSIONS AND HATES ME ENOUGH TO DO THIS.

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...



RIGHT?

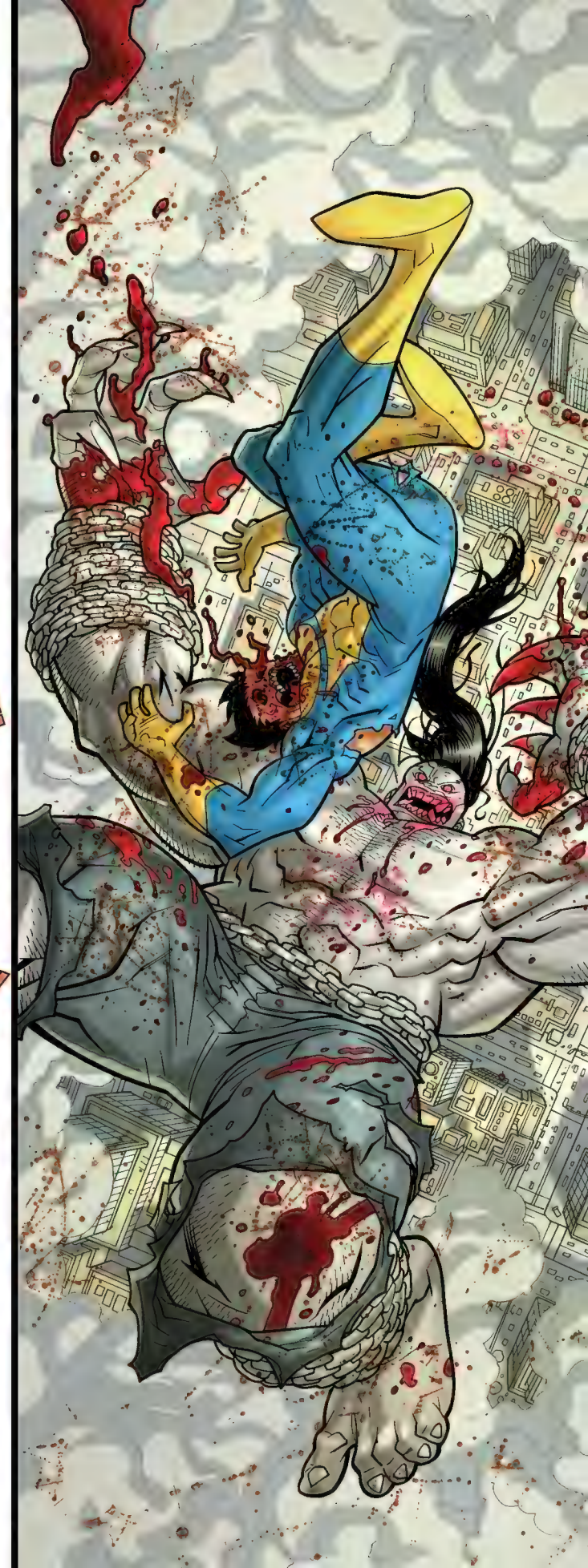
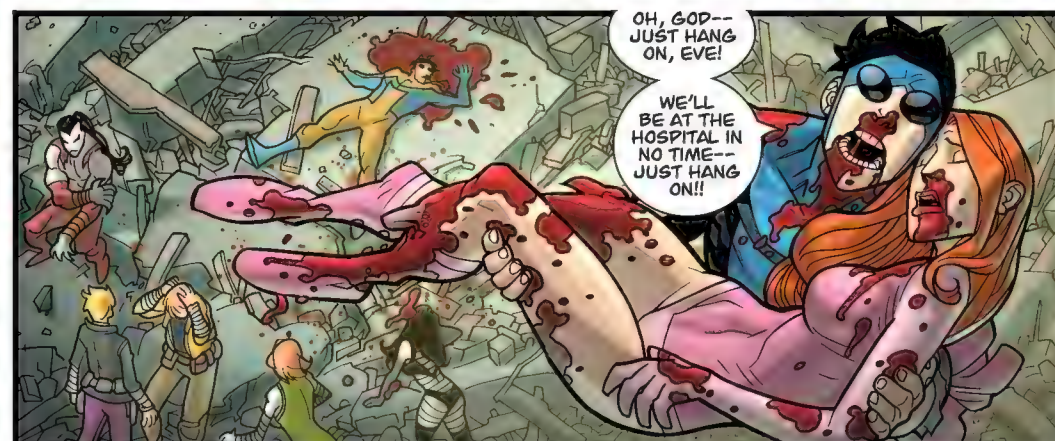
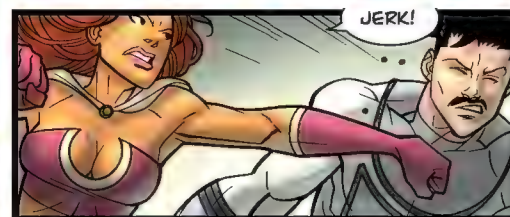
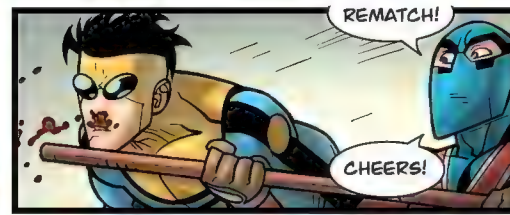


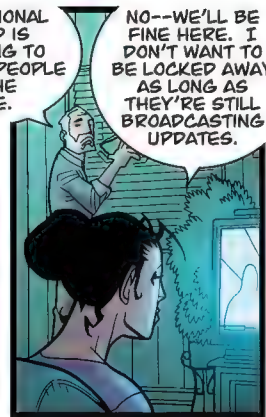
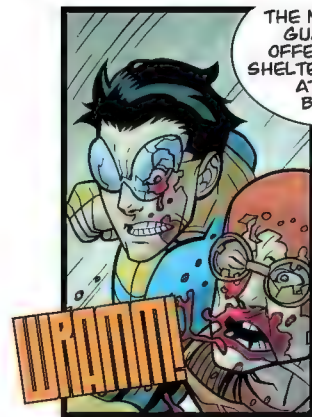
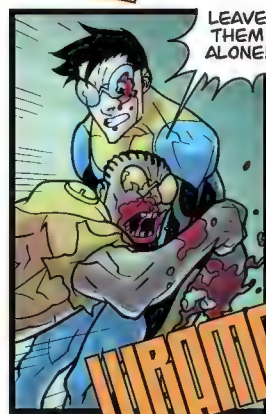
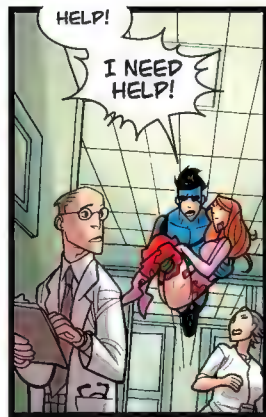
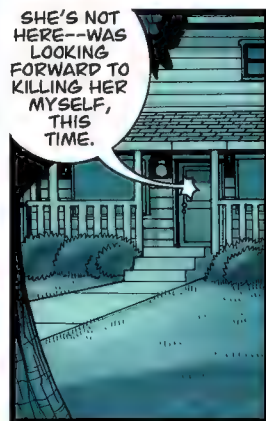
THIS WON'T BE ENOUGH! NOT NEARLY ENOUGH! CYBLADE, RIPCLAW, HEATWAVE, VELOCITY, BALLISTIC--IT'S AMUSING TO SEE YOU ALL WORKING TOGETHER AGAIN-- CYBERFORCE, WAS IT?

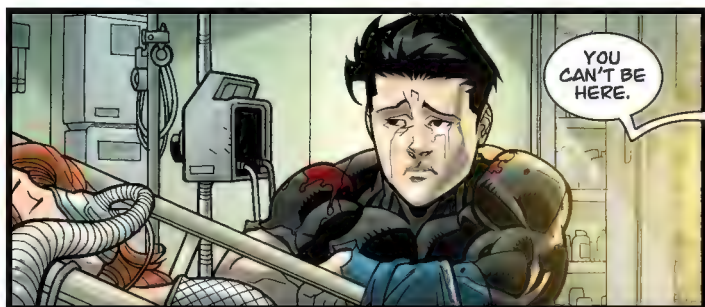
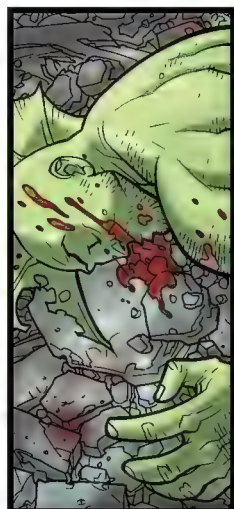
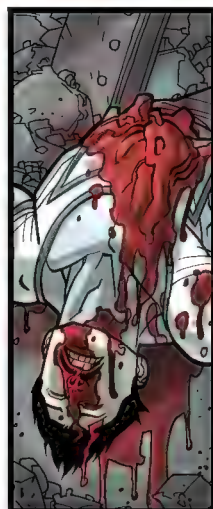
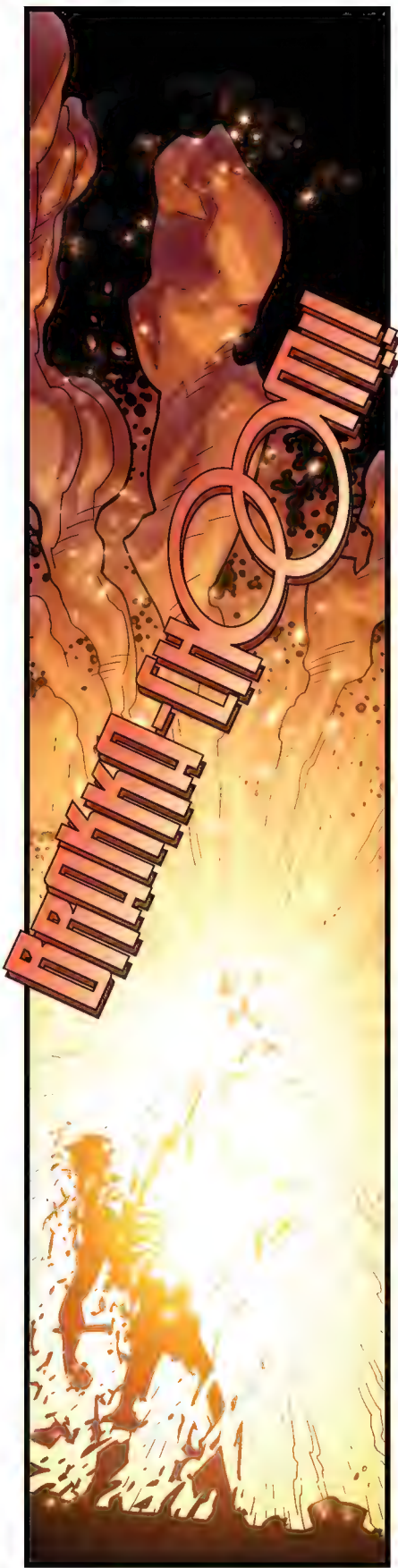
IT DOESN'T MATTER, I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU AND YOU CAN'T HOPE TO WIN THIS FIGHT!

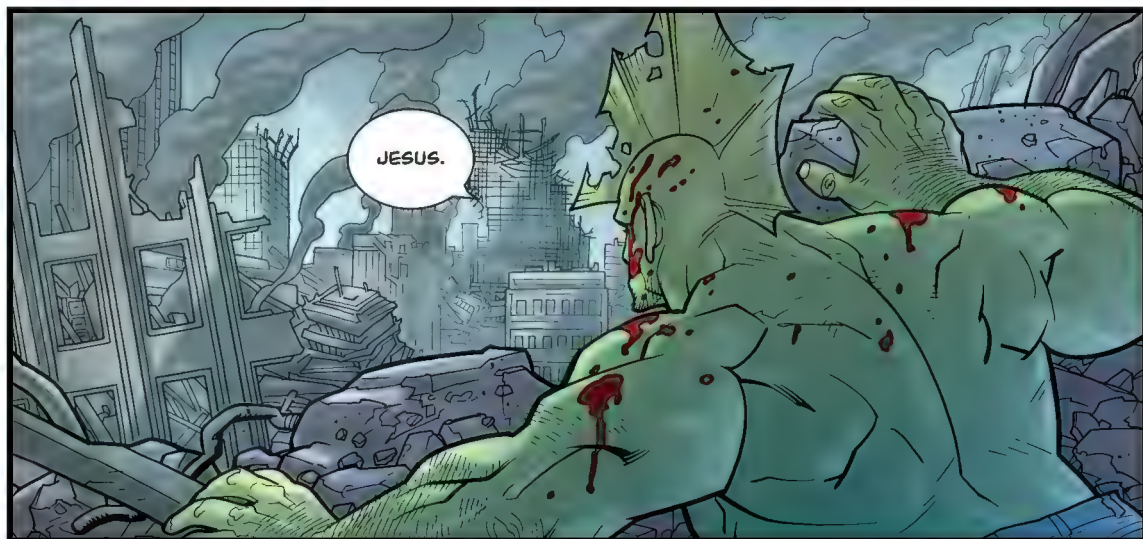
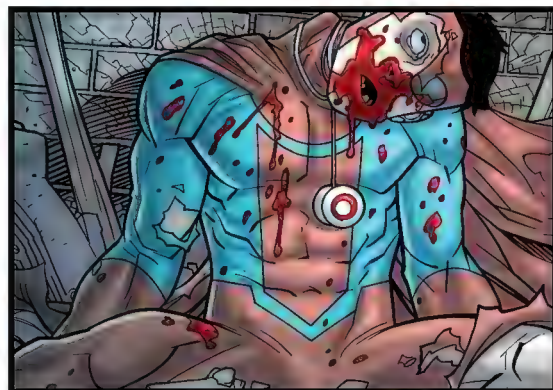
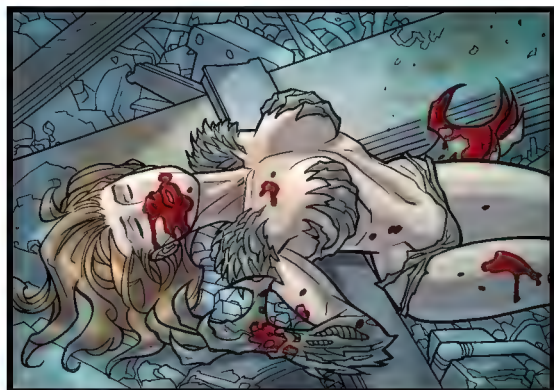
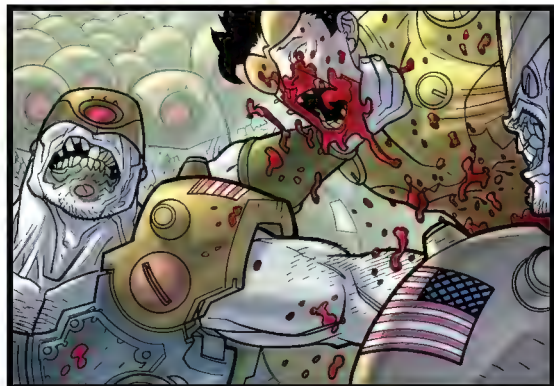
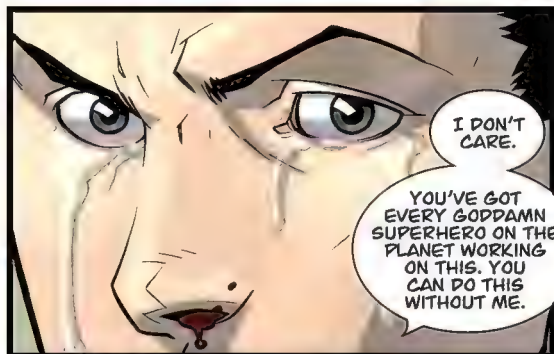
THIS IS YOUR FINAL BATTLE-- ENJOY IT WHILE IT LASTS!

OKAY, GUYS--CAN WE PLEASE SHUT HIM UP?

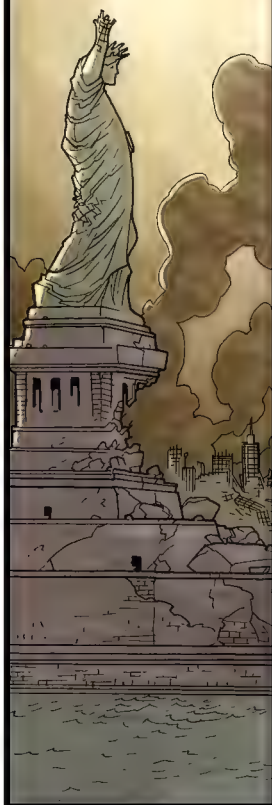
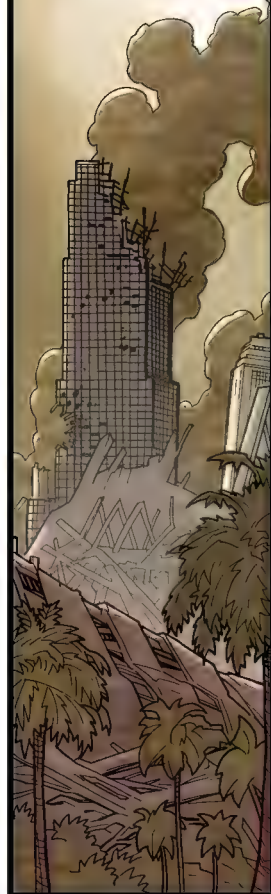
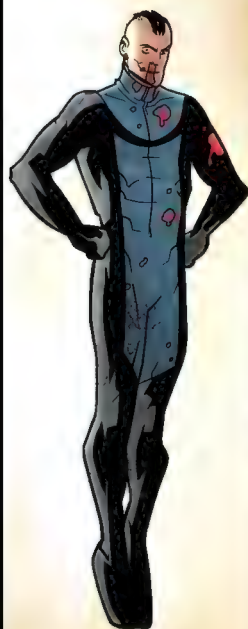
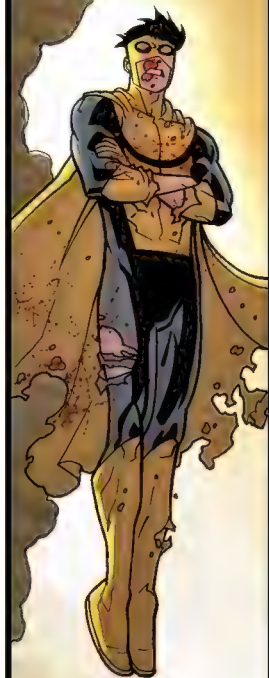


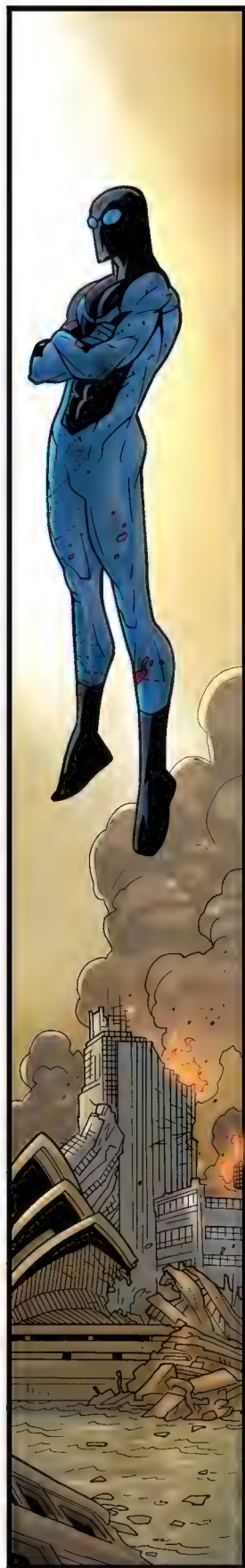
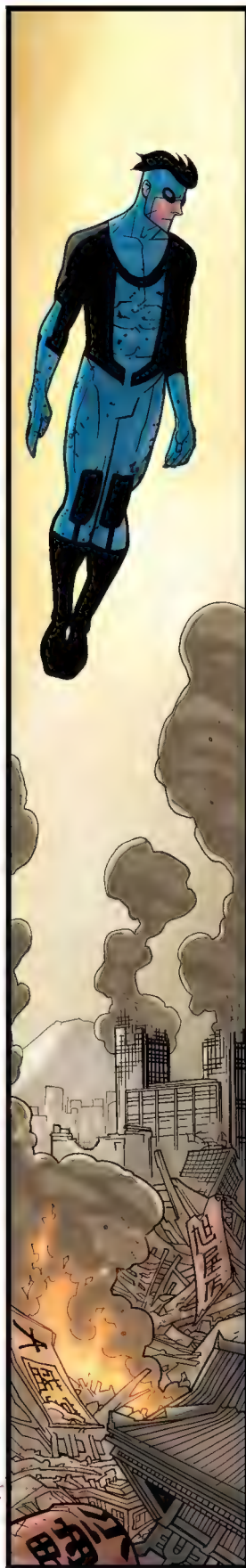






DAY THREE.







PHASE ONE IS COMPLETE.

GATHER AND PREPARE FOR MY ARRIVAL.



WHY ARE WE MEETING ABOVE MY HOUSE? I HATE COMING BACK TO THIS PLACE.

NOT ALL OF US KILLED OUR MOTHER HERE. MY FATHER DESTROYED THIS PLACE BEFORE I COULD KILL HIM. I'M HAPPY TO SEE IT.

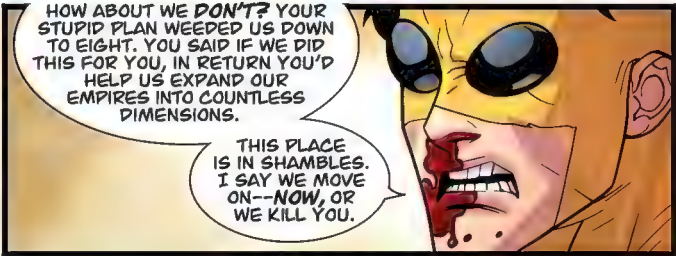
WHAT IS TAKING HIM SO LONG?



SORRY. I PREFER TO MAKE AN ENTRANCE.

THIS WORLD IS IN RUINS, THIS INVINCIBLE'S REPUTATION IS DESTROYED. THE PEOPLE HERE WILL ALWAYS HATE AND FEAR HIM BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU'VE DONE. NOW ALL THAT IS LEFT IS TO DISFIGURE HIM. I WANT HIM TO KNOW WHAT PAIN HE'S CAUSED ME.

FIND HIM, AND BRING HIM TO ME.

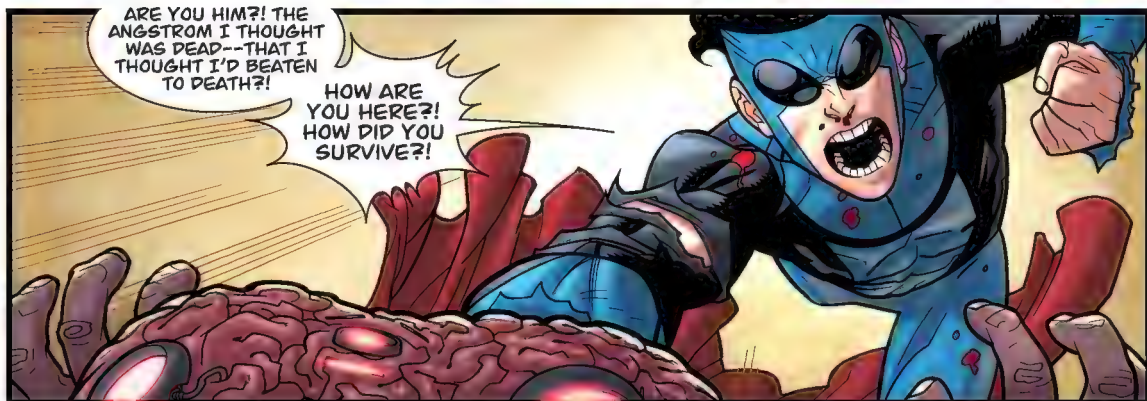


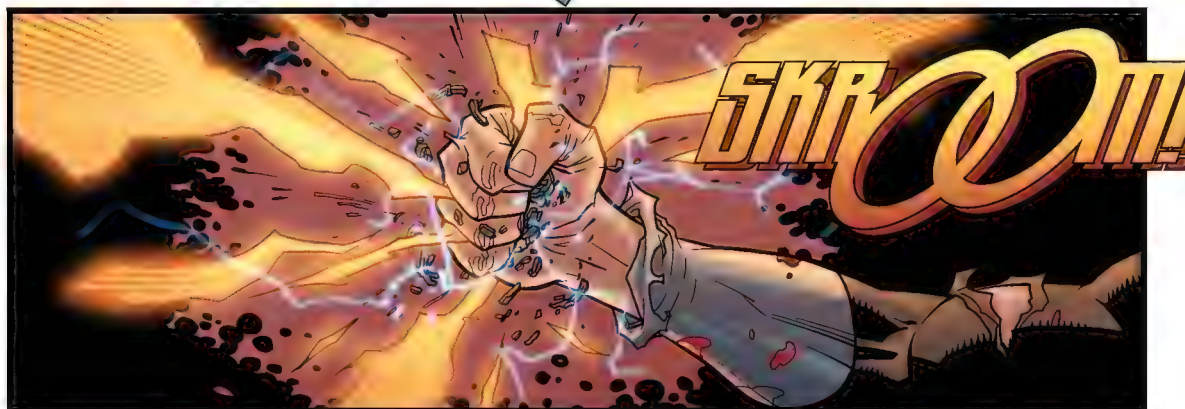
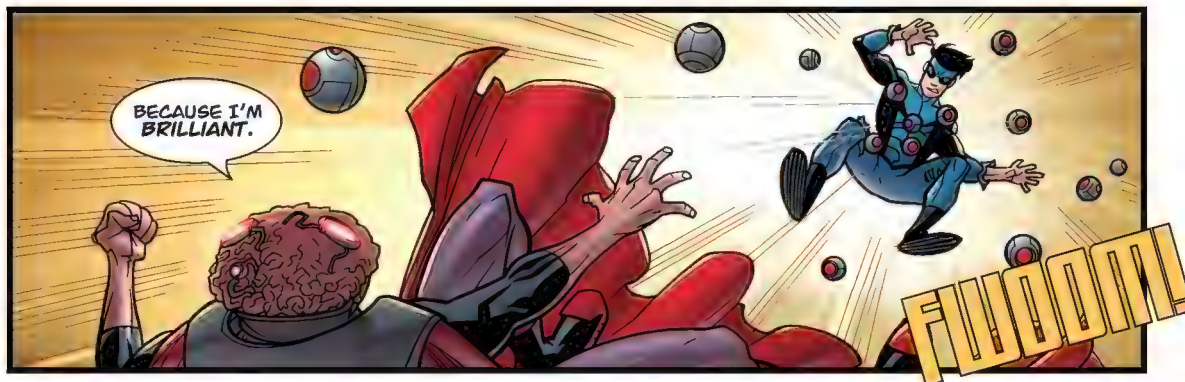
HOW ABOUT WE DON'T? YOUR STUPID PLAN WEEDED US DOWN TO EIGHT. YOU SAID IF WE DID THIS FOR YOU, IN RETURN YOU'D HELP US EXPAND OUR EMPIRES INTO COUNTLESS DIMENSIONS.

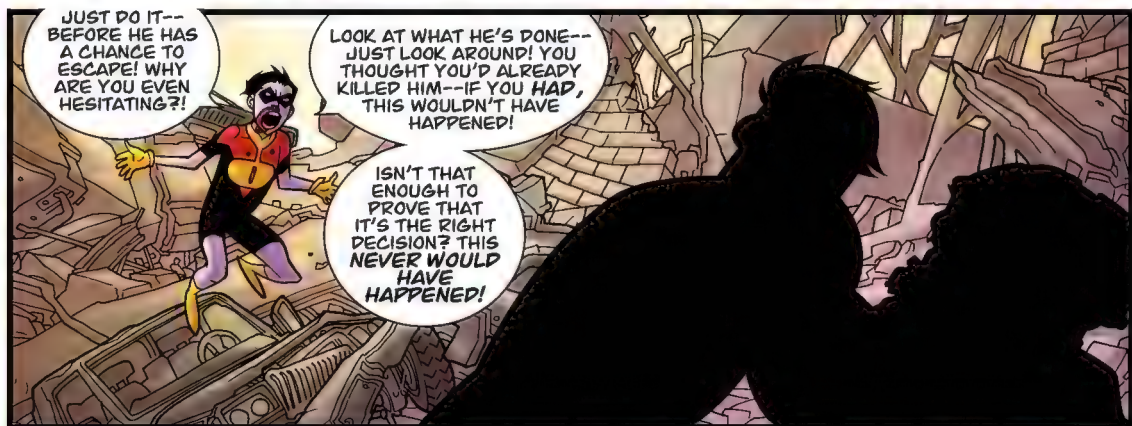
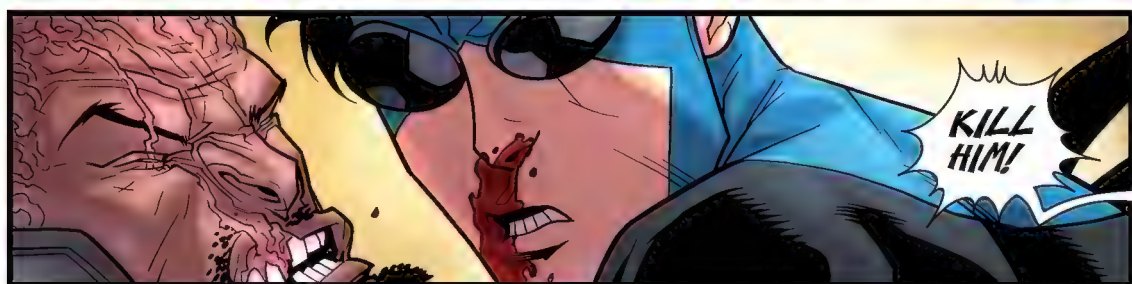
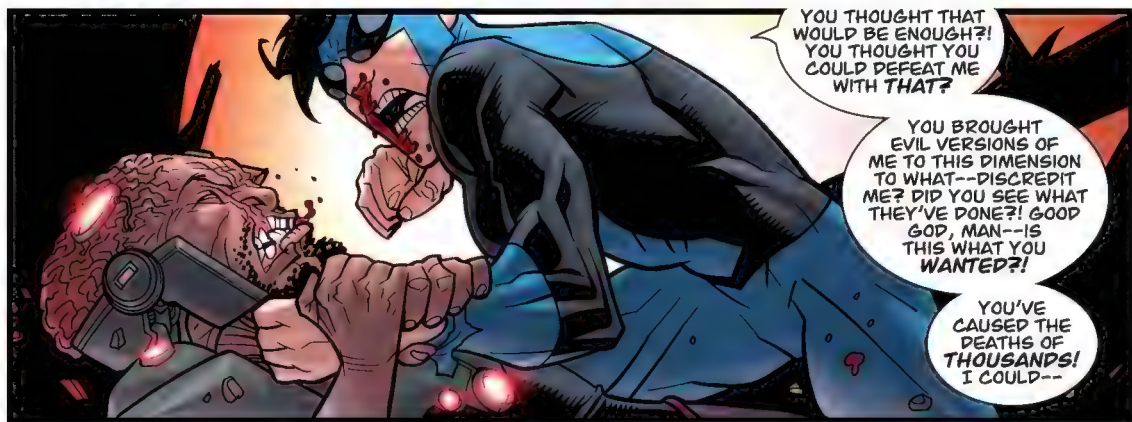
THIS PLACE IS IN SHAMBLES. I SAY WE MOVE ON--NOW, OR WE KILL YOU.



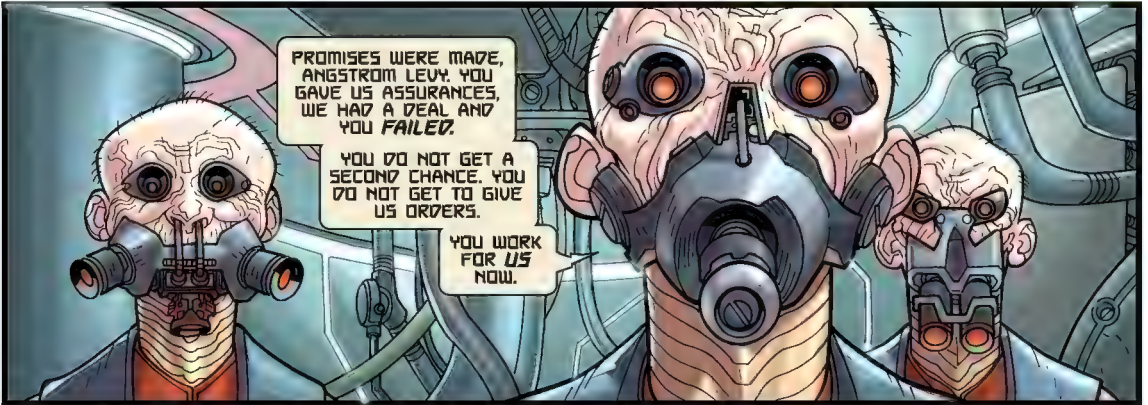
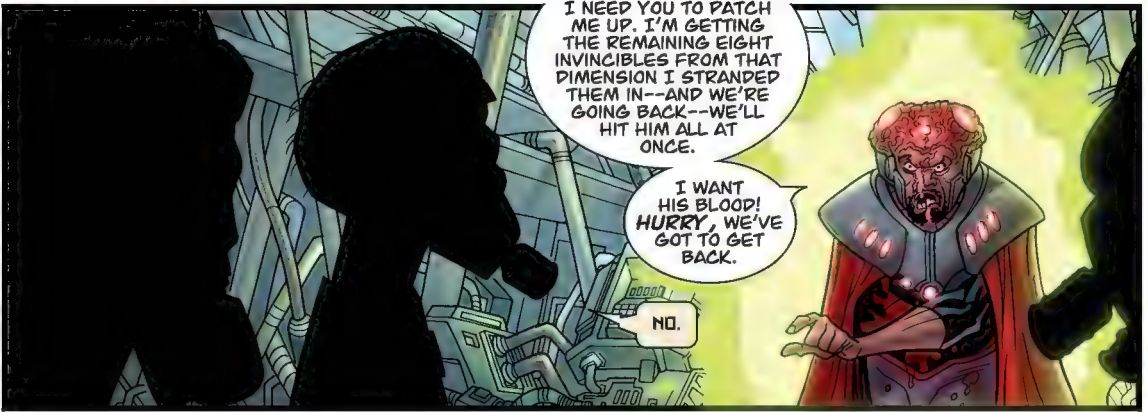


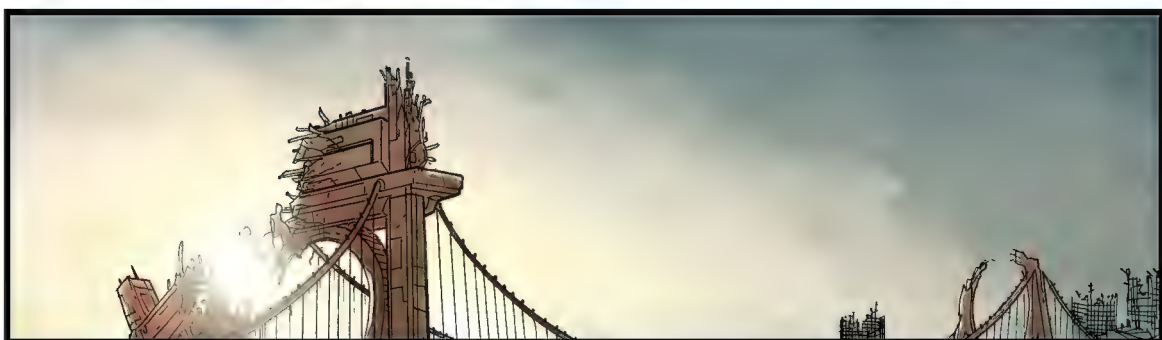
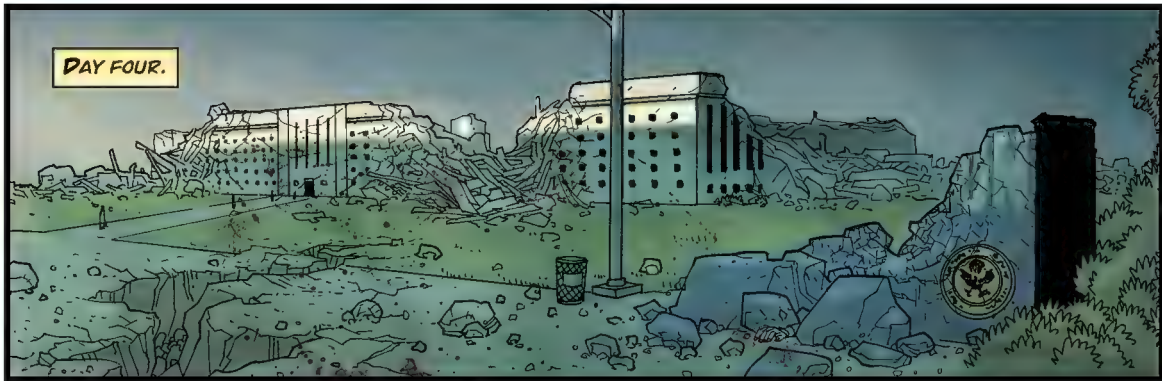






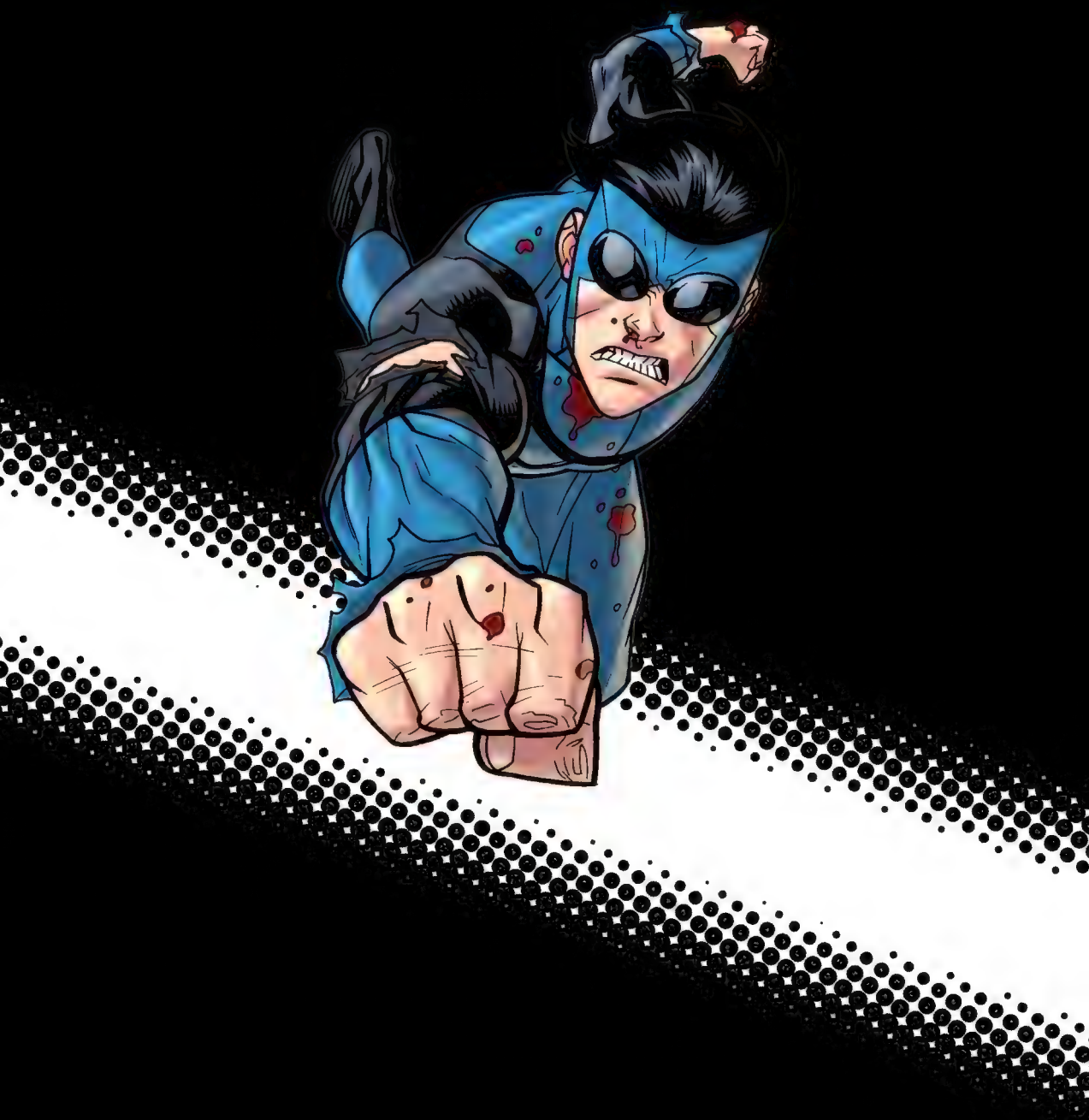






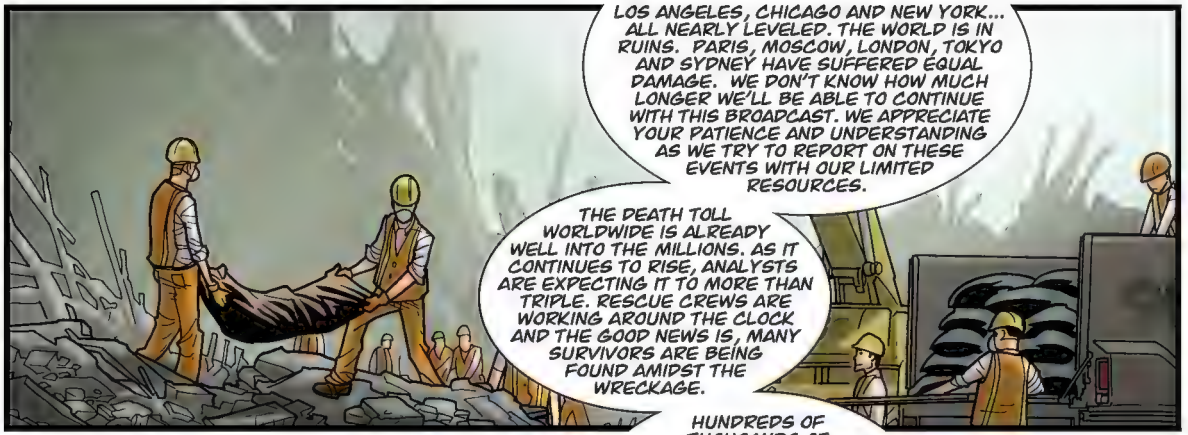


MY
GOD...



CHAPTER TWO

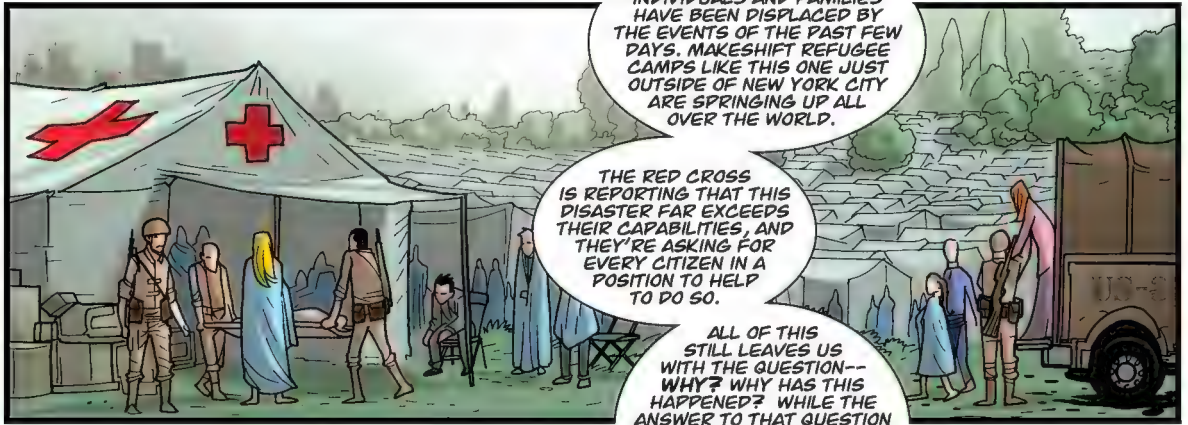




LOS ANGELES, CHICAGO AND NEW YORK... ALL NEARLY LEveled. THE WORLD IS IN RUINS. PARIS, MOSCOW, LONDON, TOKYO AND SYDNEY HAVE SUFFERED EQUAL DAMAGE. WE DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER WE'LL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE WITH THIS BROADCAST. WE APPRECIATE YOUR PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING AS WE TRY TO REPORT ON THESE EVENTS WITH OUR LIMITED RESOURCES.

THE DEATH TOLL WORLDWIDE IS ALREADY WELL INTO THE MILLIONS. AS IT CONTINUES TO RISE, ANALYSTS ARE EXPECTING IT TO MORE THAN TRIPLE. RESCUE CREWS ARE WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK AND THE GOOD NEWS IS, MANY SURVIVORS ARE BEING FOUND AMIDST THE WRECKAGE.

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES HAVE BEEN DISPLACED BY THE EVENTS OF THE PAST FEW DAYS. MAKESHIFT REFUGEE CAMPS LIKE THIS ONE JUST OUTSIDE OF NEW YORK CITY ARE SPRINGING UP ALL OVER THE WORLD.



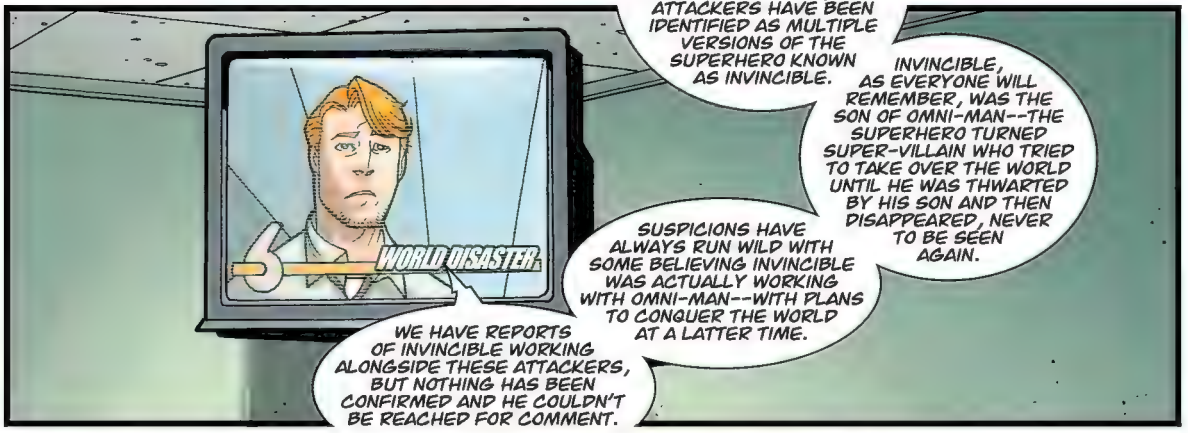
THE RED CROSS IS REPORTING THAT THIS DISASTER FAR EXCEEDS THEIR CAPABILITIES, AND THEY'RE ASKING FOR EVERY CITIZEN IN A POSITION TO HELP TO DO SO.

ALL OF THIS STILL LEAVES US WITH THE QUESTION-- WHY? WHY HAS THIS HAPPENED? WHILE THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION MAY NEVER COME, THE ATTACKERS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS MULTIPLE VERSIONS OF THE SUPERHERO KNOWN AS INVINCIBLE.

INVINCIBLE, AS EVERYONE WILL REMEMBER, WAS THE SON OF OMNI-MAN--THE SUPERHERO TURNED SUPER-VILLAIN WHO TRIED TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD UNTIL HE WAS THWARTED BY HIS SON AND THEN DISAPPEARED, NEVER TO BE SEEN AGAIN.

SUSPICIONS HAVE ALWAYS RUN WILD WITH SOME BELIEVING INVINCIBLE WAS ACTUALLY WORKING WITH OMNI-MAN--WITH PLANS TO CONQUER THE WORLD AT A LATTER TIME.

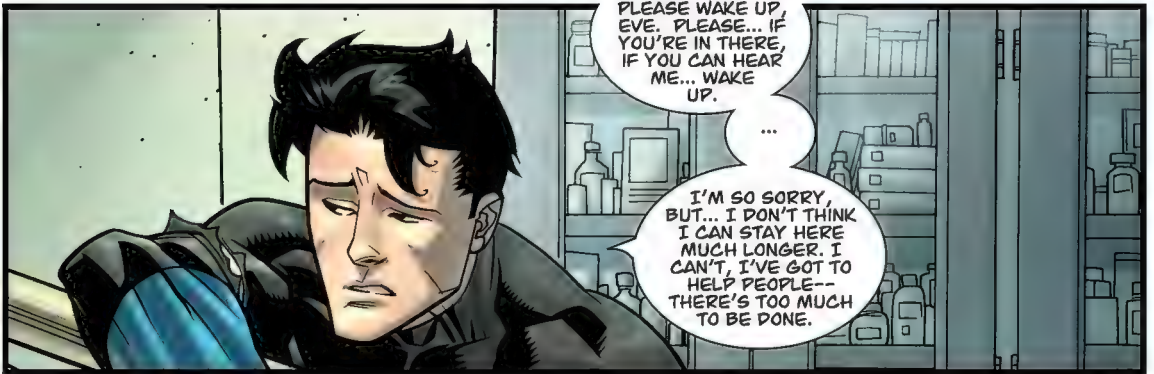
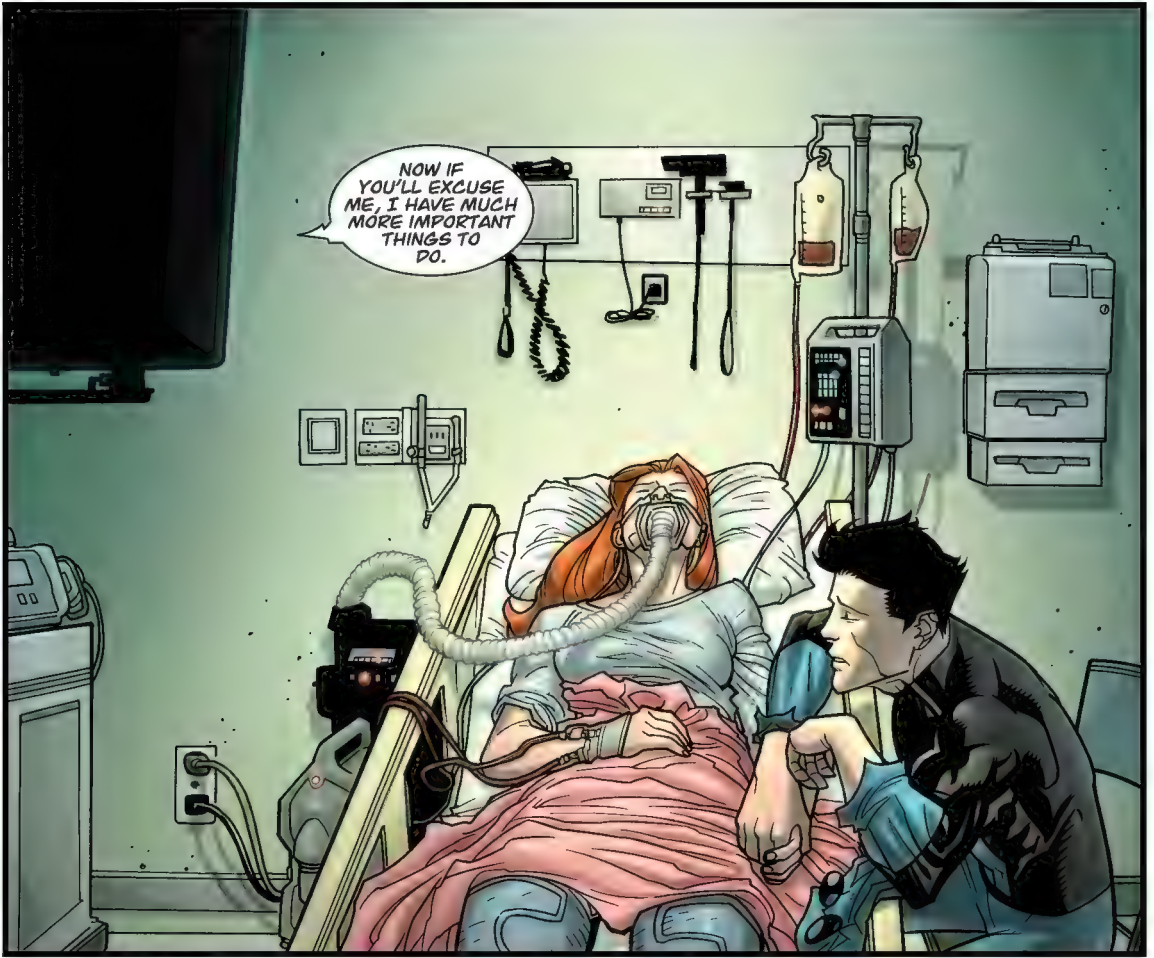
WE HAVE REPORTS OF INVINCIBLE WORKING ALONGSIDE THESE ATTACKERS, BUT NOTHING HAS BEEN CONFIRMED AND HE COULDN'T BE REACHED FOR COMMENT.

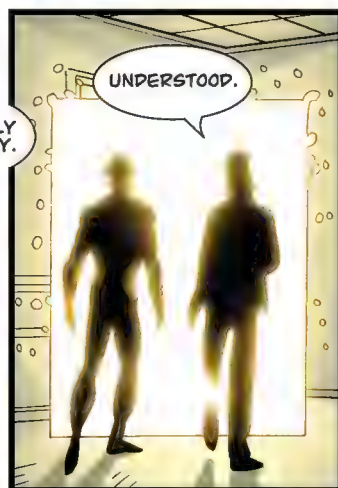
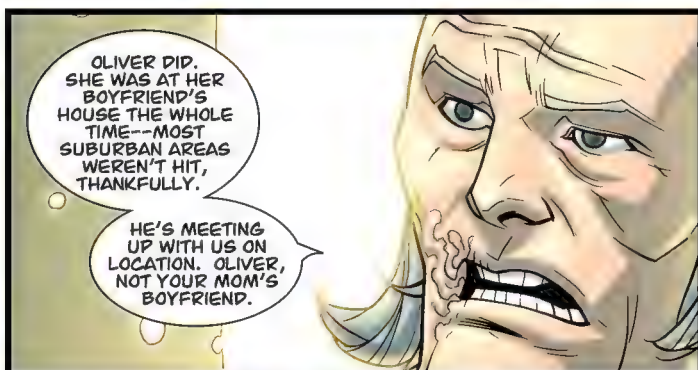


THIS IS ABSURD. THESE THINGS WERE DOPPELGANGERS--EVIL TWINS. I KNOW INVINCIBLE AND HE WASN'T WORKING WITH THEM.

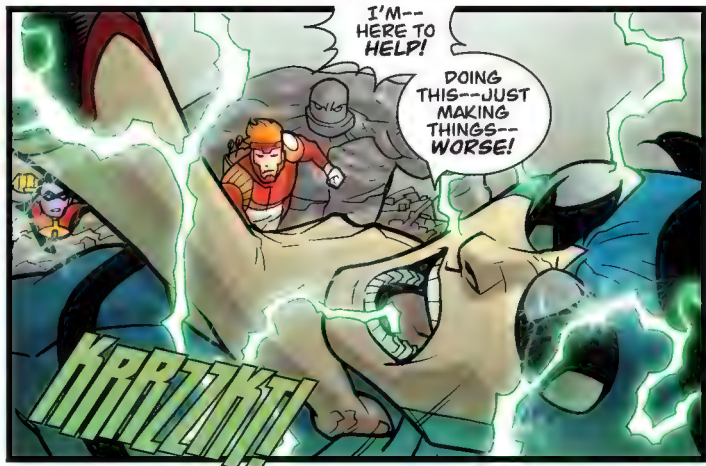
THIS IS SLOPPY REPORTING. IF YOU REVIEWED FOOTAGE FOR TEN MINUTES I'M SURE YOU'D FIND INVINCIBLE, ON CAMERA, FIGHTING AGAINST THESE MONSTERS.

I SAW HIM WITH MY OWN EYES. HE WAS WORKING WITH THEM. INVINCIBLE HAS FINALLY SHOWN HIS TRUE COLORS. IT'S OBVIOUS NOW THAT HIM DEFENDING THE WORLD AGAINST HIS FATHER WAS ALL JUST AN ACT.



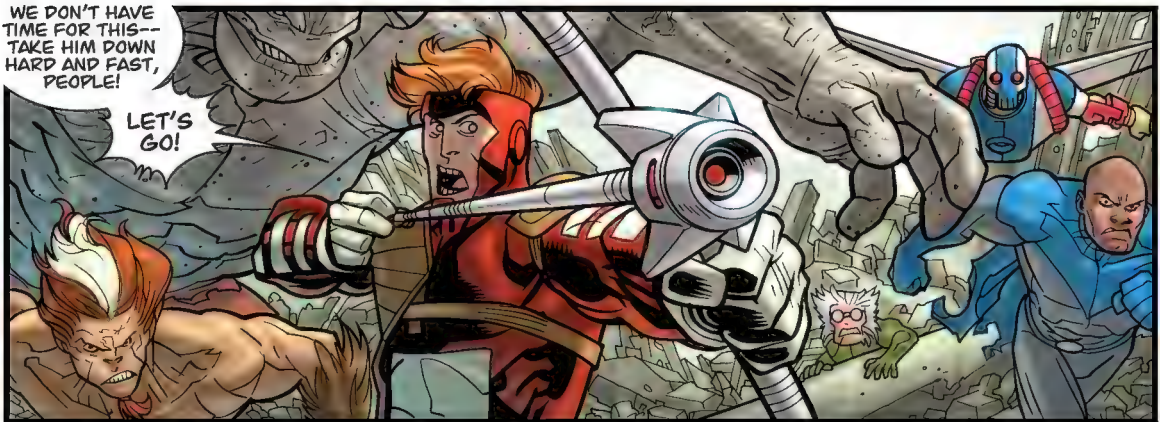






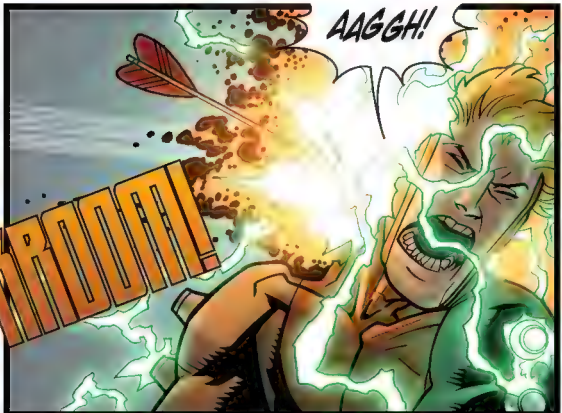
WE DON'T HAVE
TIME FOR THIS--
TAKE HIM DOWN
HARD AND FAST,
PEOPLE!

LET'S
GO!



AAGGH!

KRADOON!



THINK THEY'VE
GOT THIS ONE
COVERED, KID
THOR.

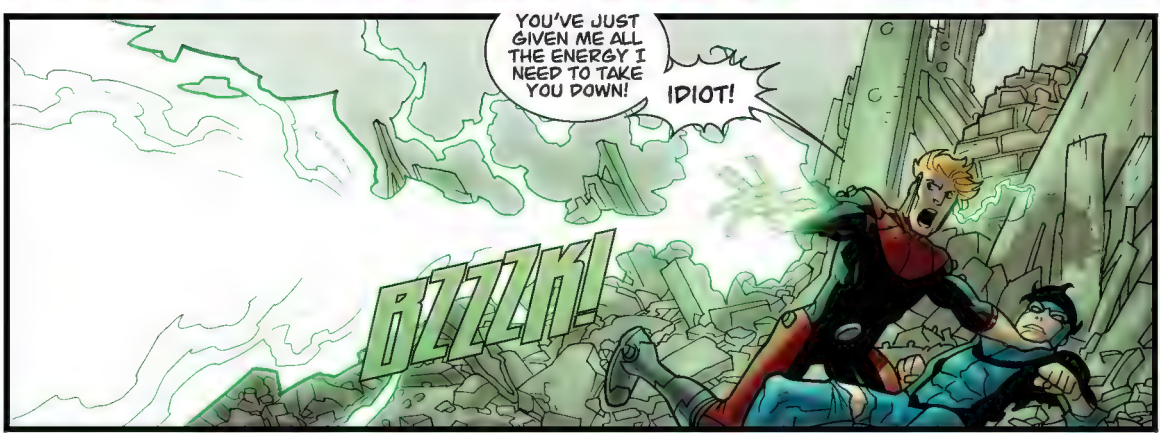
C'MON,
THERE'S
WORK TO
BE DONE,
LIVES TO
SAVE.



YOU'VE JUST
GIVEN ME ALL
THE ENERGY I
NEED TO TAKE
YOU DOWN!

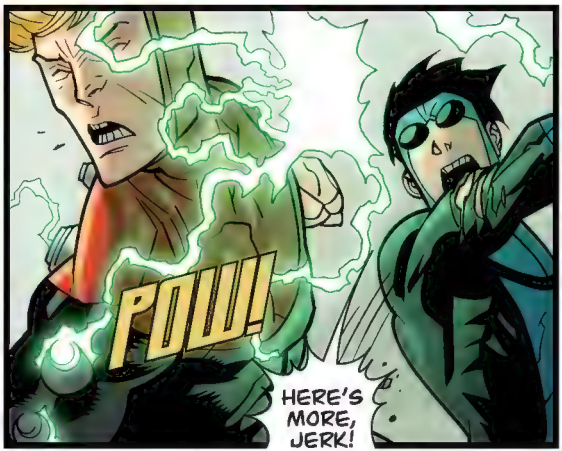
IDIOT!

BZZZZK!



POW!

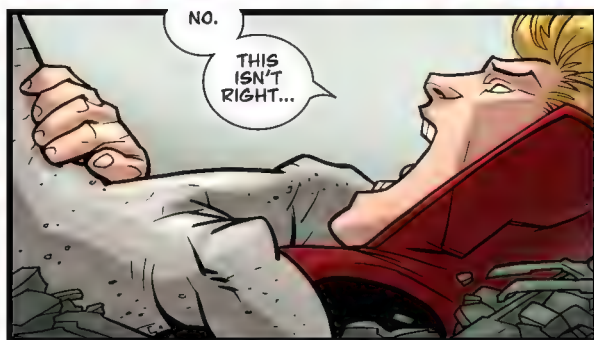
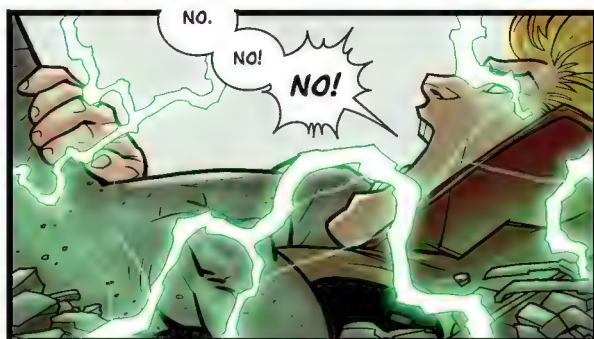
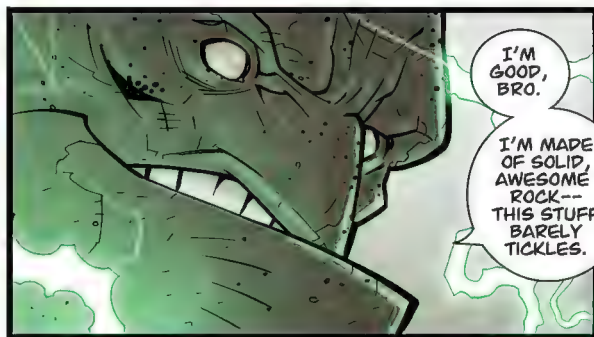
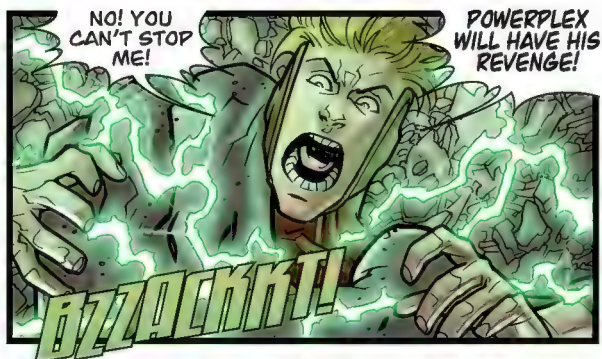
HERE'S
MORE,
JERK!

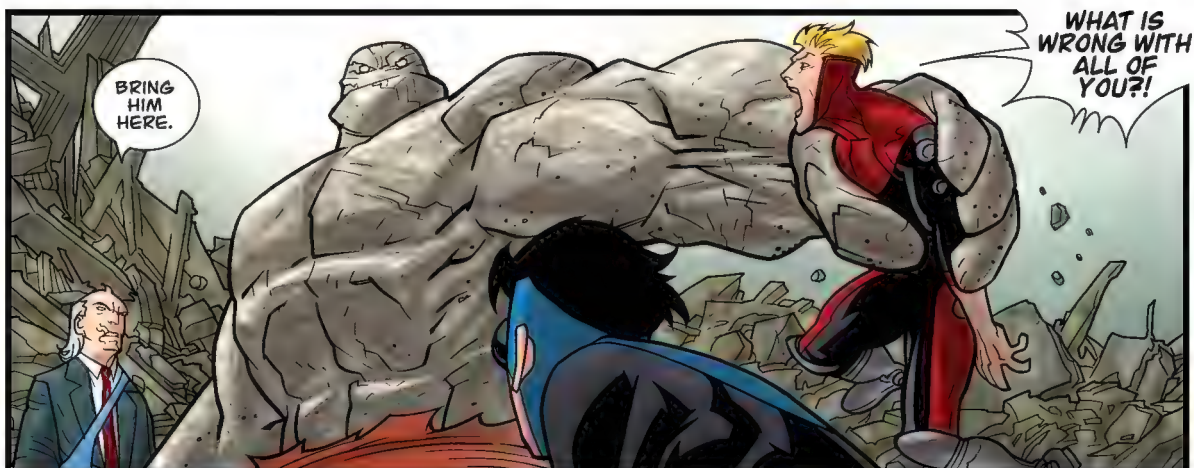


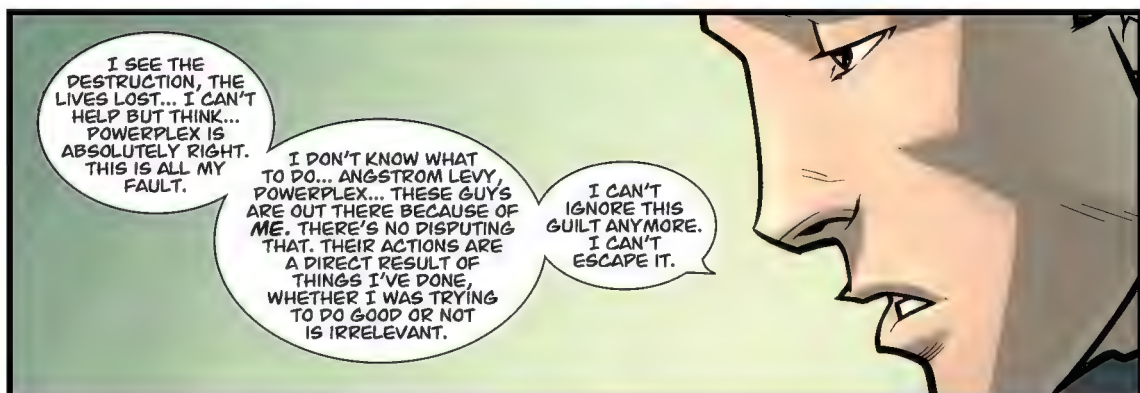
QUICK--
SOMEONE
PIN HIM
DOWN!

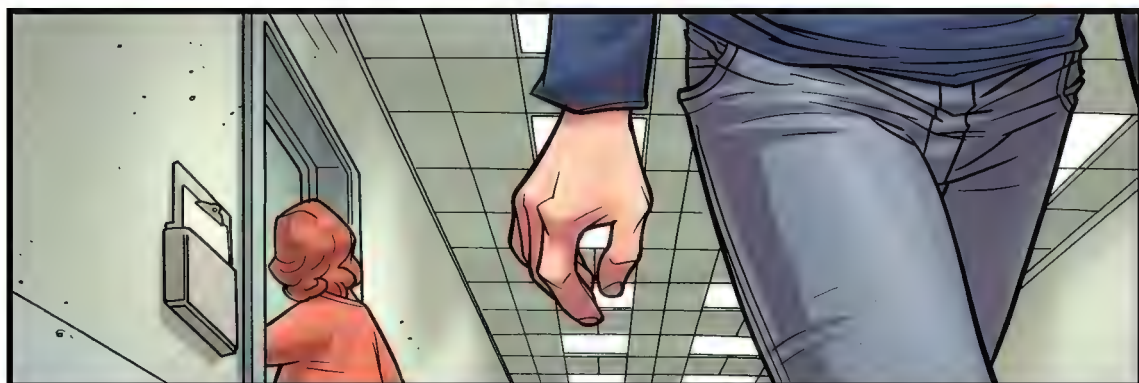
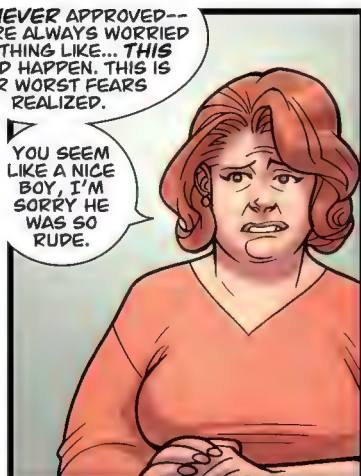
DON'T
LET HIM
MOVE!



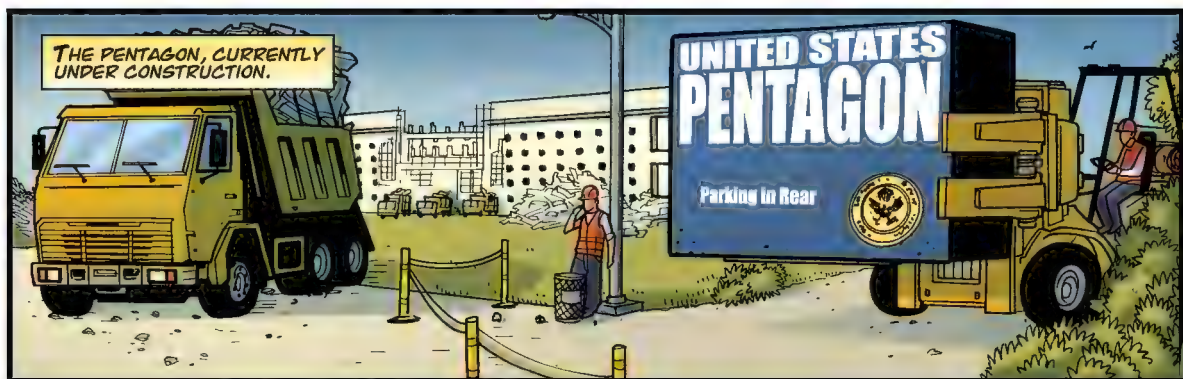














IMMORTAL AND DUPLI-KATE ARE RETIRING. DARKWING IS DEAD, SHAPESMITH IS INJURED--THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE ARE OUT OF COMMISSION.

THE WORLD IS LARGELY UNDEFENDED.

WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT, **FAST**. THAT'S WHY I CALLED YOU ALL HERE, DESPITE THE PAST DIFFERENCES I'VE HAD WITH SOME OF YOU.



SHAPESMITH SHOULD BE BACK UP TO SPEED SOON, HE HAS SOMETHING HE CALLS A "**CORE**" AND AS LONG AS THAT'S NOT DAMAGED HE SAYS HE'LL BE FINE. SO HE WAS LUCKY.

MORE LIKE **WE** WERE LUCKY. IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT FORMING A NEW TEAM, WE HAVE VERY FEW OPTIONS RIGHT NOW.

THAT'S THE MAIN ISSUE-- WE NEED A NEW TEAM **RIGHT NOW**. I DON'T THINK THE ENEMIES OF THE WORLD WILL BE KIND ENOUGH TO TAKE A BREAK WHILE WE REBUILD.



I UNDERSTAND THIS SITUATION IS BIGGER THAN MY COMPLAINTS WITH YOU, CECIL... SO YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.

I'M TOLD BULLETPROOF'S NEW HAND IS COMPLETE--HE WASN'T INJURED OTHERWISE. I THINK I COULD CONVINCE HIM TO JOIN AT LEAST TEMPORARILY.

I'M CURRENTLY IN THE HOSPITAL WITH MONSTER GIRL AND THE DOCTORS TELL ME THEY'RE OPTIMISTIC THAT SHE'LL MAKE A FULL RECOVERY SOON. WE COULD COUNT HER IN AS WELL.



WHAT ABOUT REX SPLODE?



REX IS DEAD.



THERE'S NO TIME FOR THAT NOW.



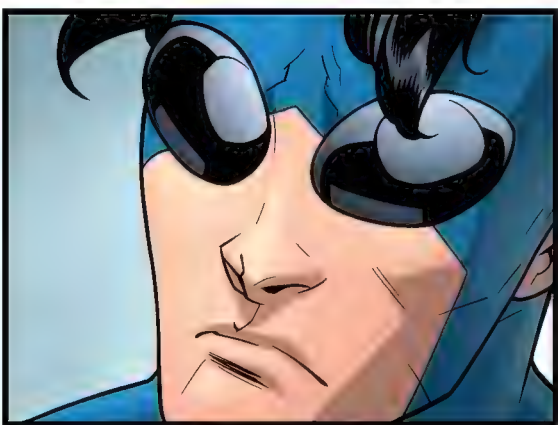
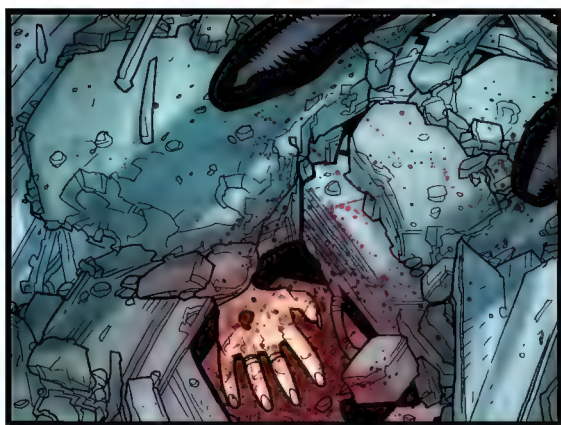
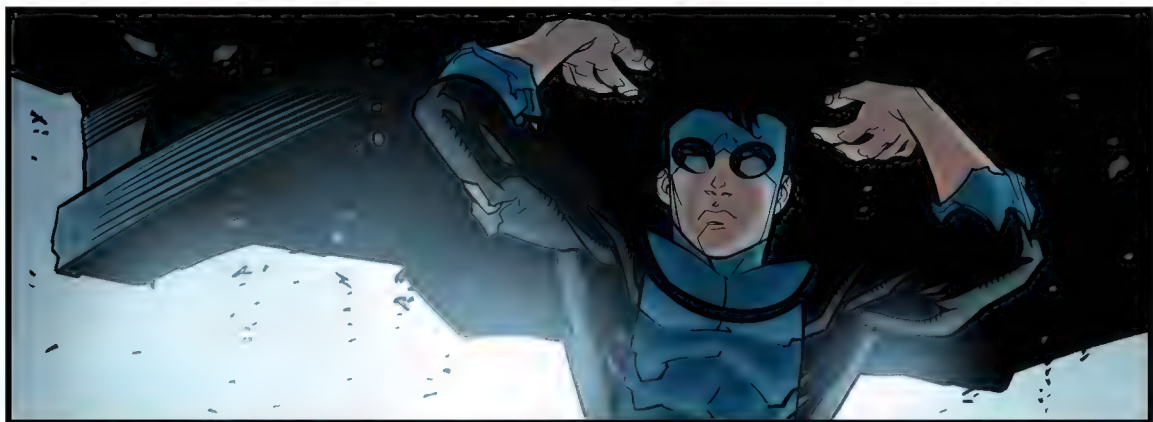
WE NEED TO GET THIS TEAM UP AND RUNNING BEFORE ANYONE REALIZES HOW VULNERABLE WE ARE.

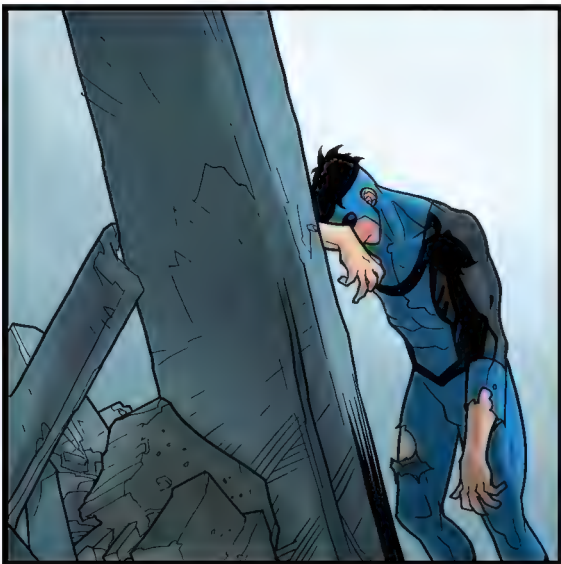
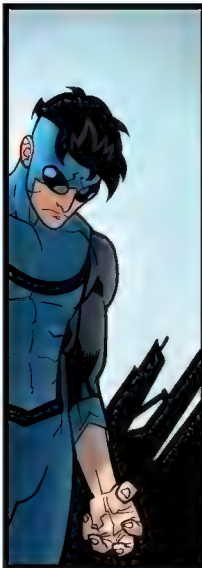
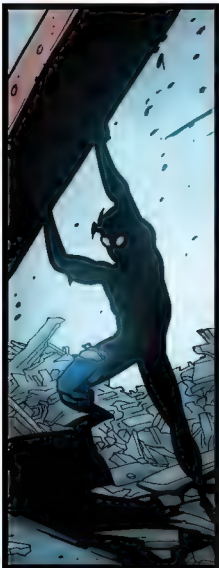


I DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE WORKING FOR YOU UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WHY AM I HERE?









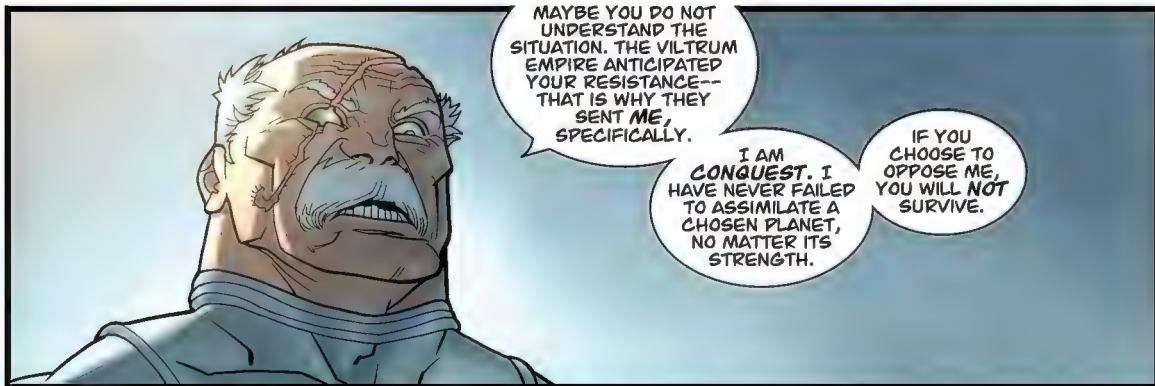
YOU HAVE
BEEN APPOINTED
THE VILTRUMITE
AGENT OF THIS
PLANET, CHARGED
WITH PREPARING IT
FOR EVENTUAL
TAKEOVER BY
OUR EMPIRE.

I AM HERE
TO CONFIRM YOUR
PROGRESS MADE
TOWARD THAT TASK...
IF THERE IS NONE,
I WILL ASSUME
YOUR DUTIES AND
TAKE OVER.

IF YOU
OPPOSE ME,
I WILL KILL
YOU.



THIS
ISN'T A
GOOD
TIME.



MAYBE YOU DO NOT
UNDERSTAND THE
SITUATION. THE VILTRUM
EMPIRE ANTICIPATED
YOUR RESISTANCE--
THAT IS WHY THEY
SENT **ME**,
SPECIFICALLY.

I AM
CONQUEST. I
HAVE NEVER FAILED
TO ASSIMILATE A
CHOSEN PLANET,
NO MATTER ITS
STRENGTH.

IF YOU
CHOOSE TO
OPPOSE ME,
YOU WILL **NOT**
SURVIVE.



MAYBE YOU DO
NOT UNDERSTAND. I
HAVE CAUSED **ALL**
THE DESTRUCTION YOU
SEE AROUND YOU. THE
LIVES LOST ARE A
DIRECT RESULT OF
MY ACTIONS.

I CAN'T
DESCRIBE THE
GUILT, SHAME... AND
MOST IMPORTANTLY
ANGER THAT I
FEEL RIGHT
NOW.

ALL I HAVE
THOUGHT ABOUT--
THE ONLY THING
I'VE WANTED SINCE
ALL OF THIS
HAPPENED...



...WAS SOMETHING
TO HIT AS HARD
AS I CAN.



VERY
WELL.





CHAPTER THREE







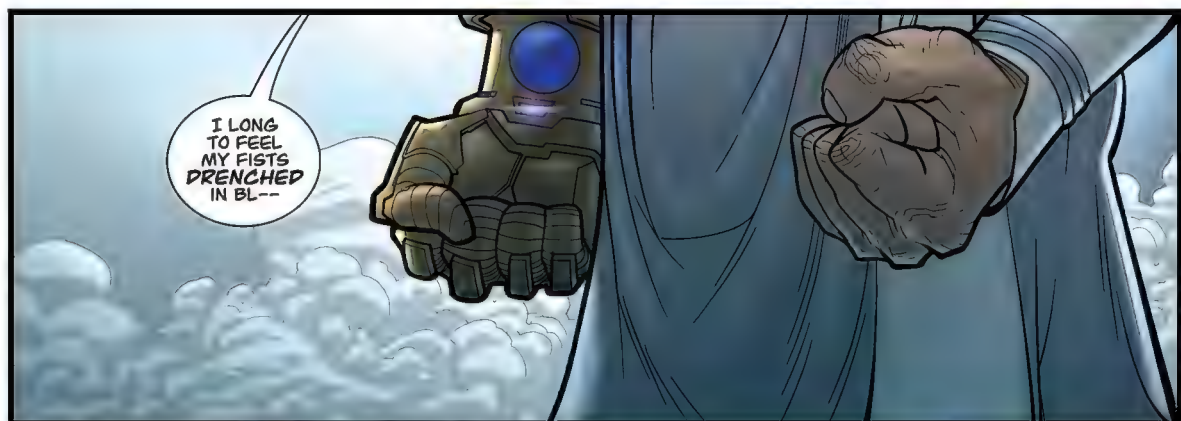


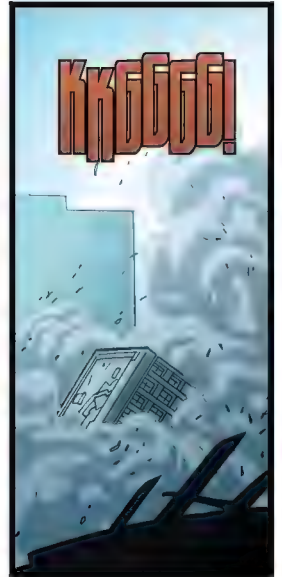
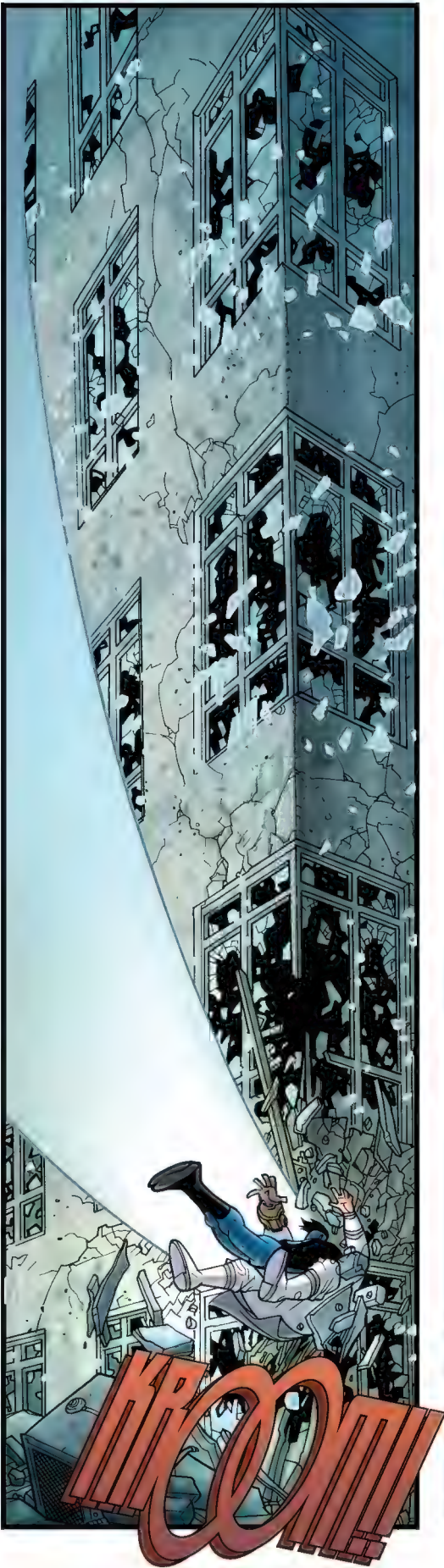
RIGHT NOW, **ANISSA** WOULD BE TELLING YOU ABOUT HOW THE VILTRUM EMPIRE WOULD TURN THIS PLANET INTO A **UTOPIA**. SHE'D TELL YOU YOU'RE A FOOL TO TRY AND PREVENT THIS--THAT WE WOULD BE HELPING THE PEOPLE YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE PROTECTING FROM US.

I WILL NOT TELL YOU ANY SUCH THING.

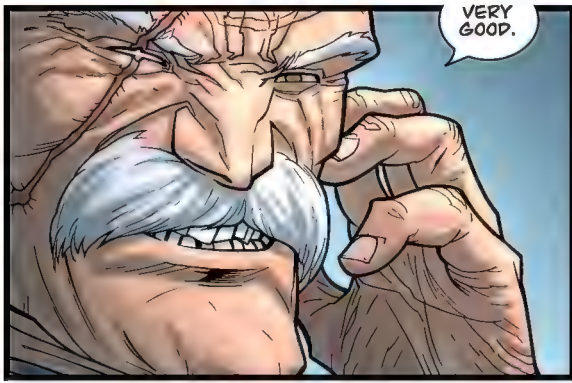
THE TRUTH IS, I WANT YOU TO RESIST. I'M NOT HERE BECAUSE I WANT TO SPREAD THE VILTRUM EMPIRE. I'M NOT HERE BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN ONE CAUSE OR THE OTHER, OR THAT I'M FULFILLING SOME KIND OF HONORABLE DUTY.

I'M HERE BECAUSE I ENJOY THIS.

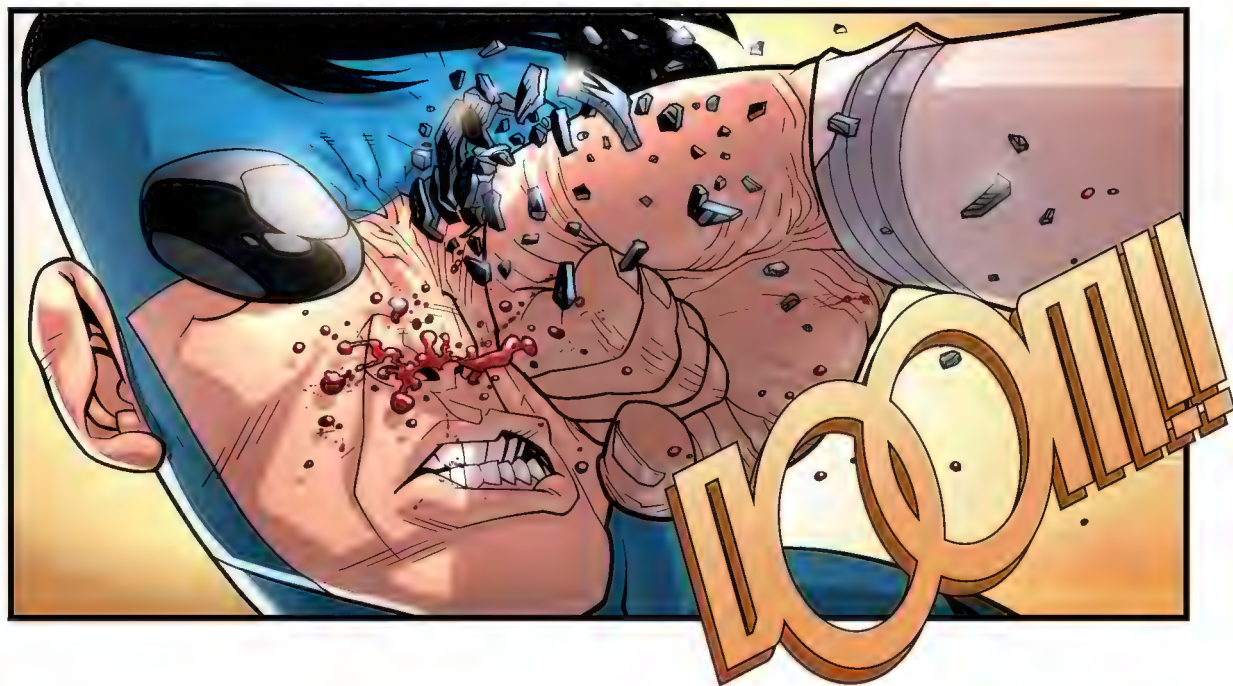
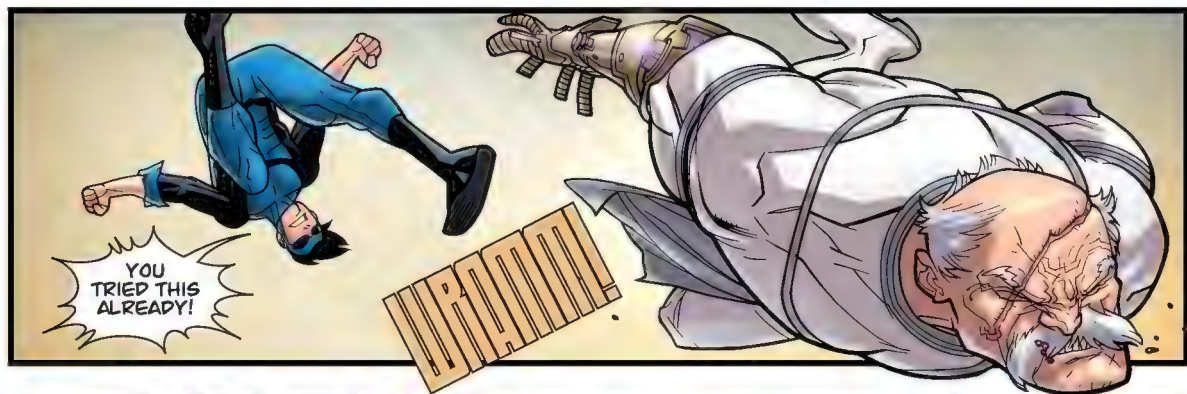
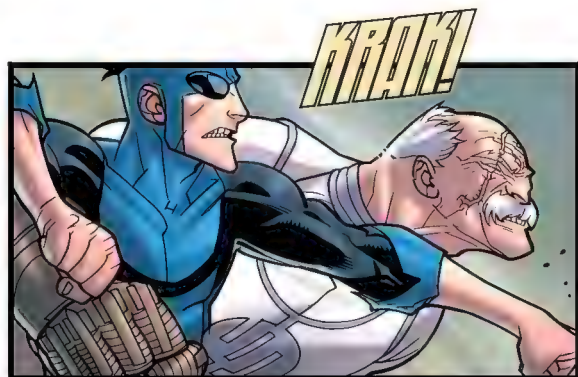


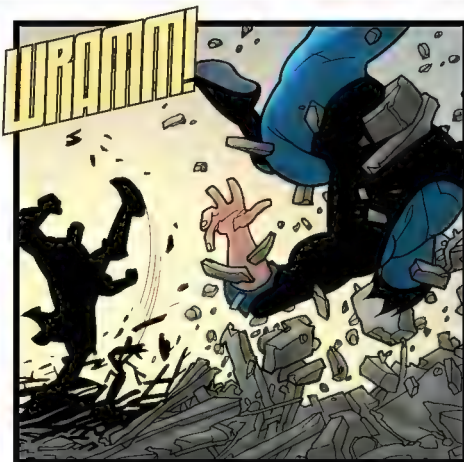
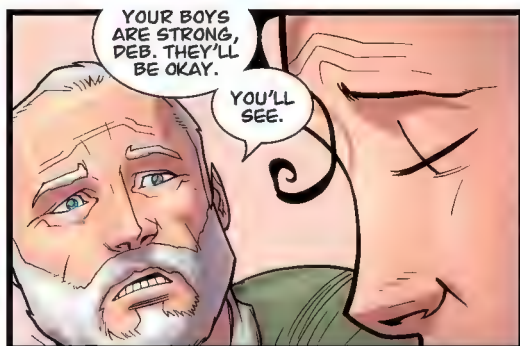
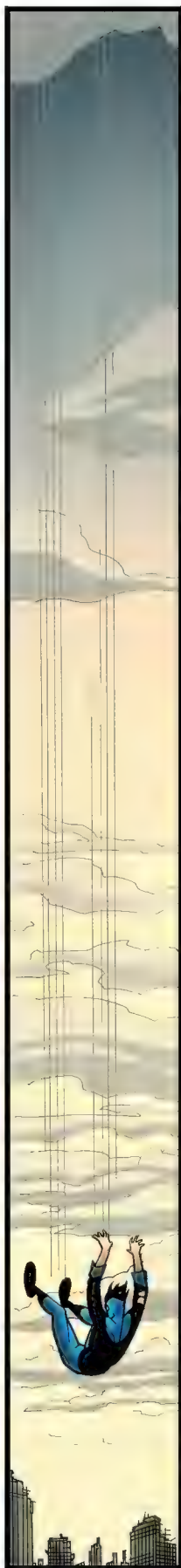


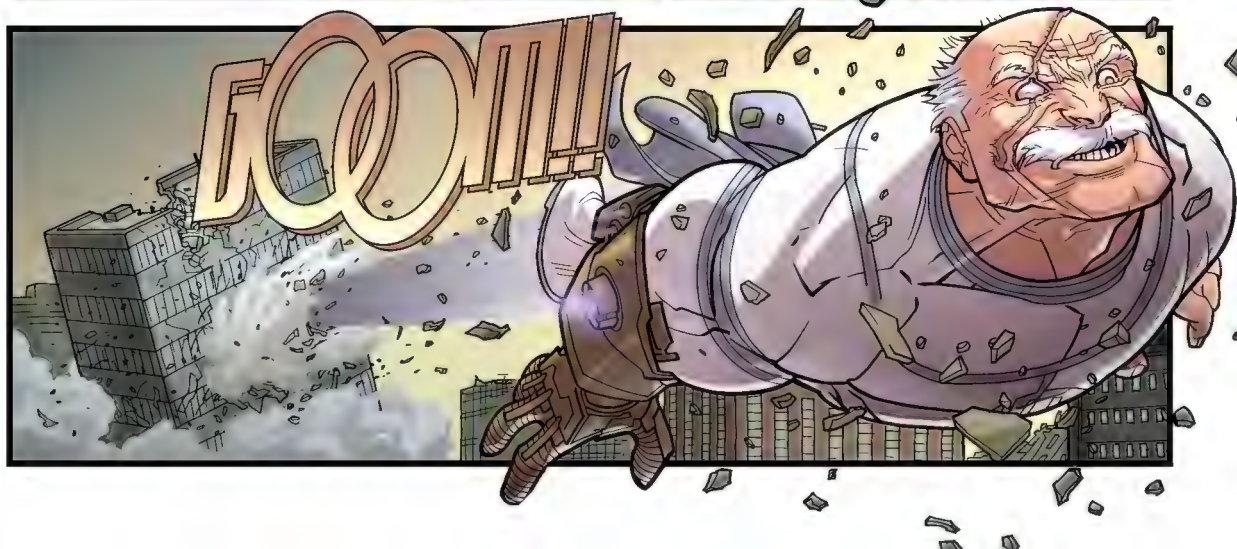
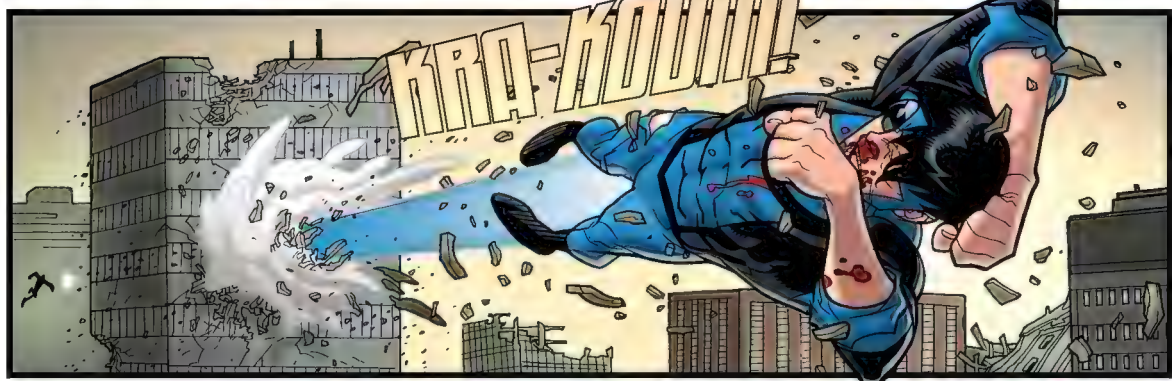


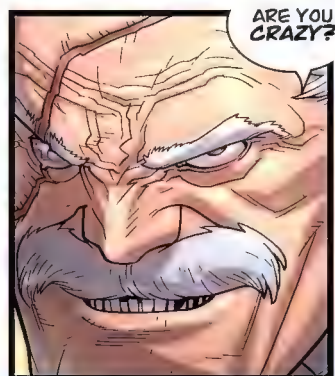
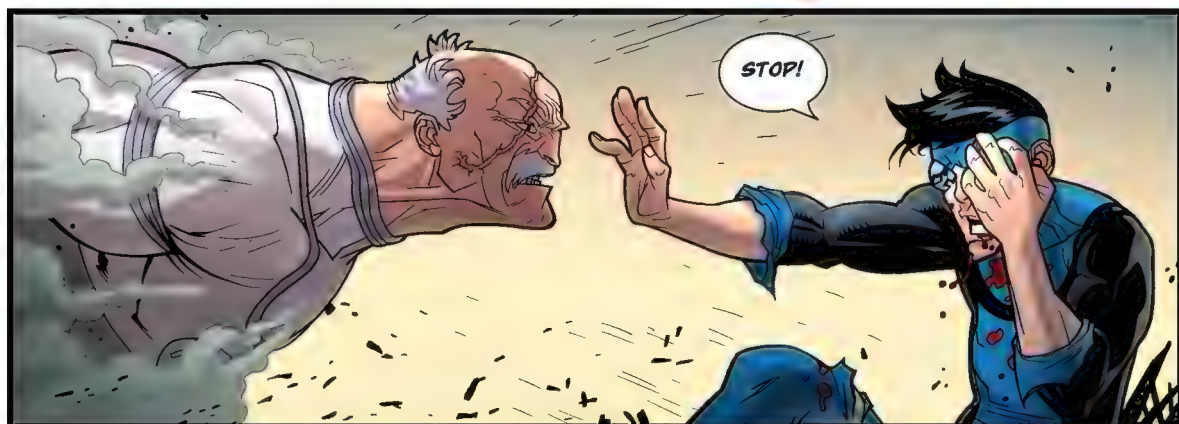


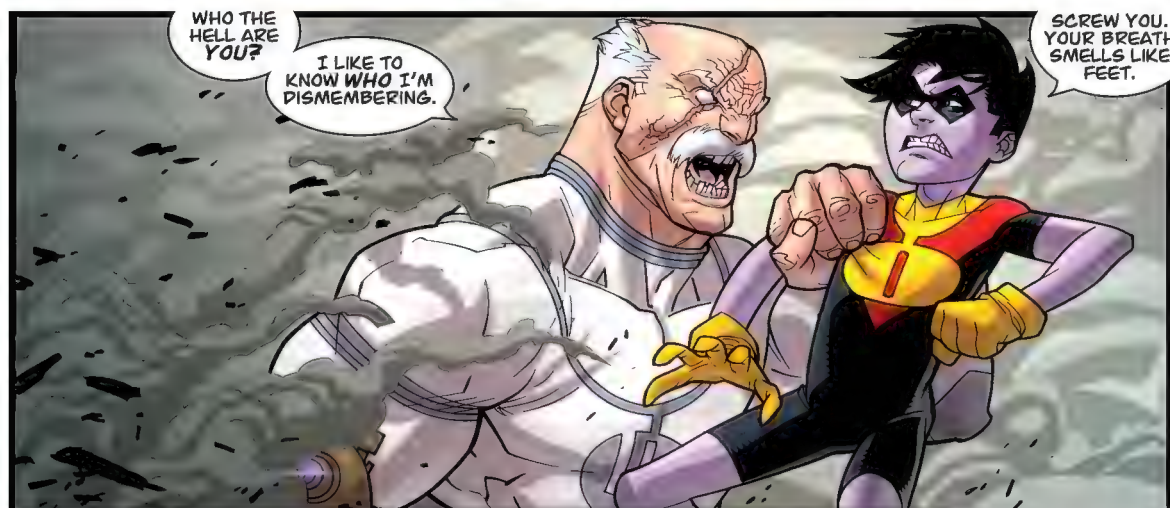


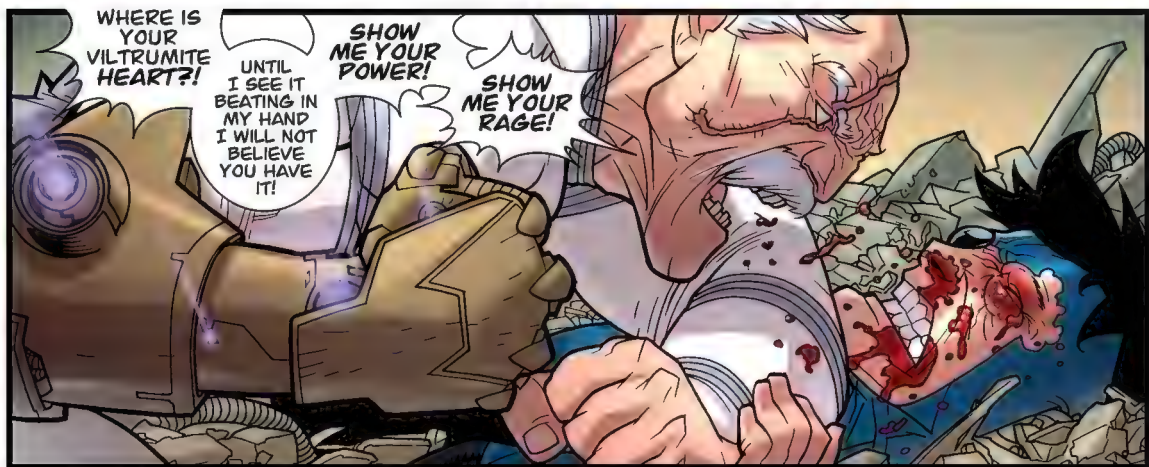
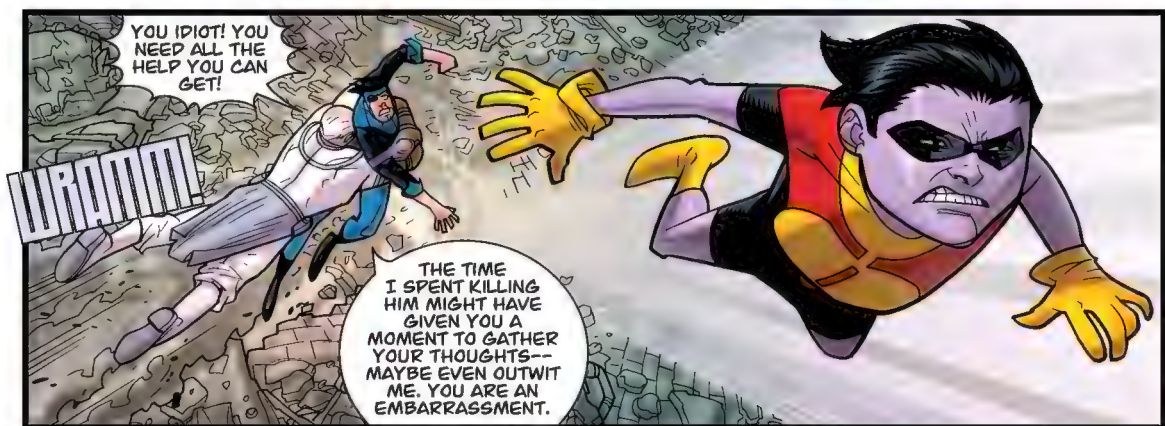


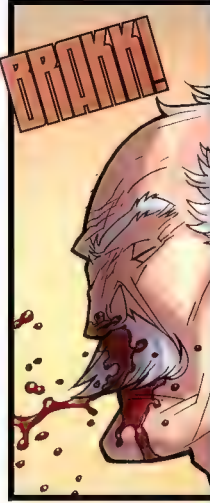
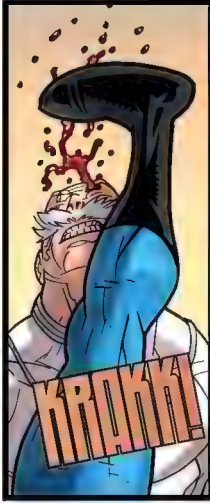
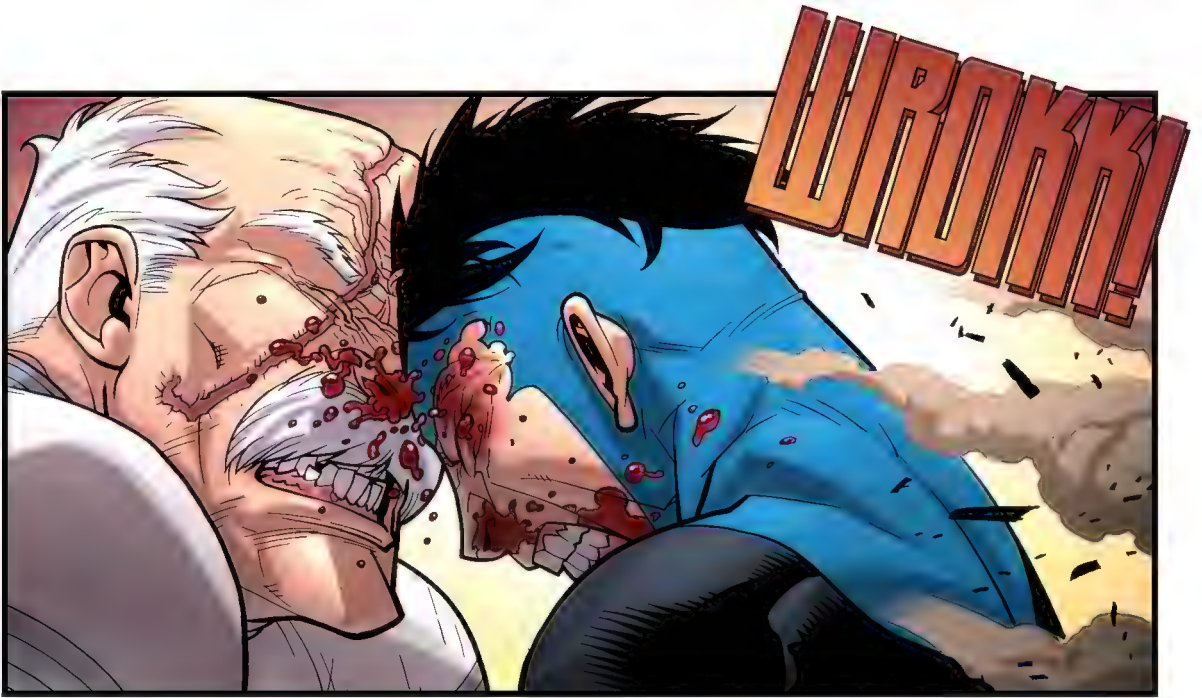


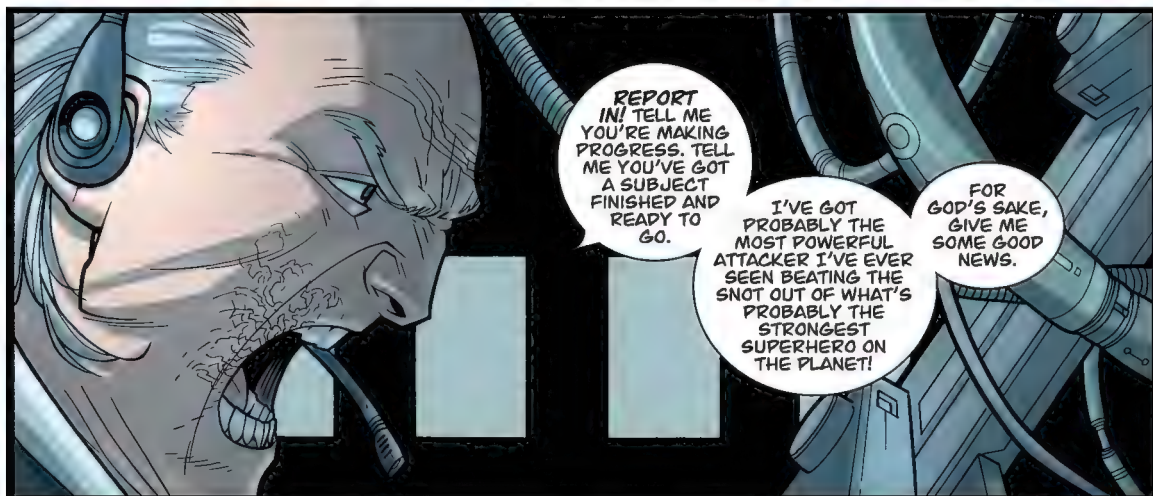
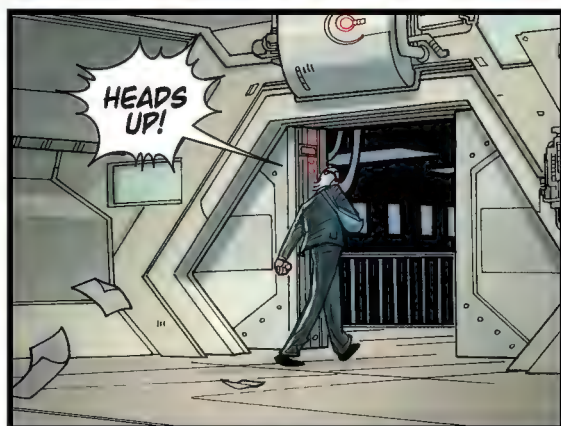
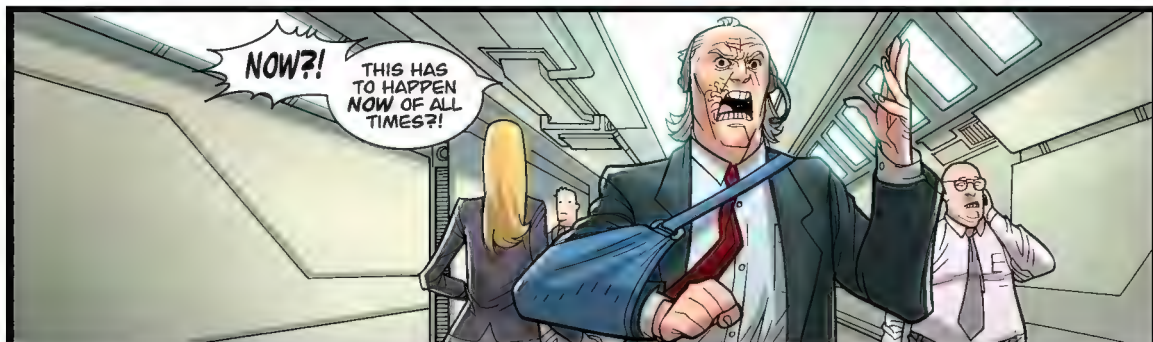
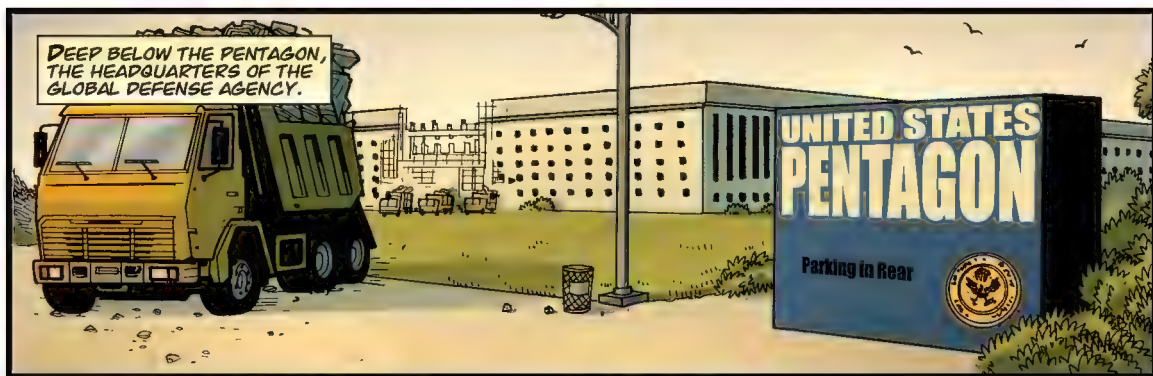










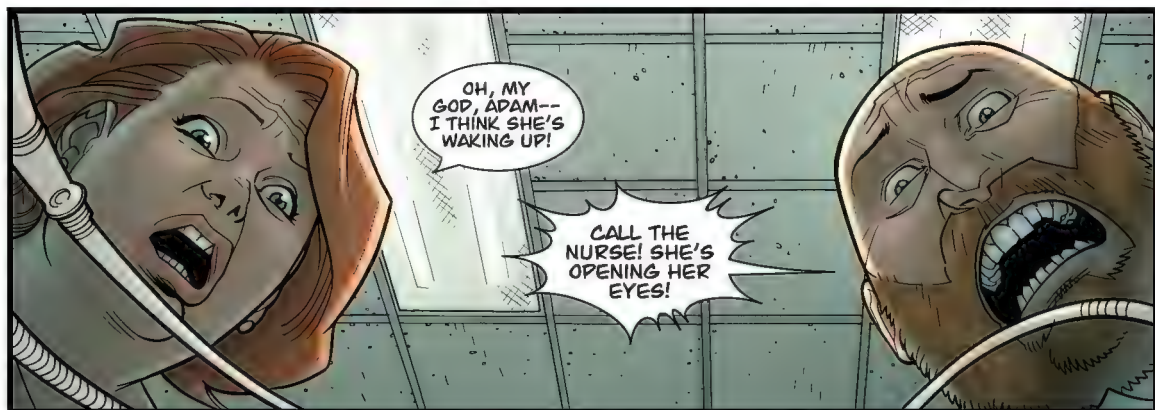
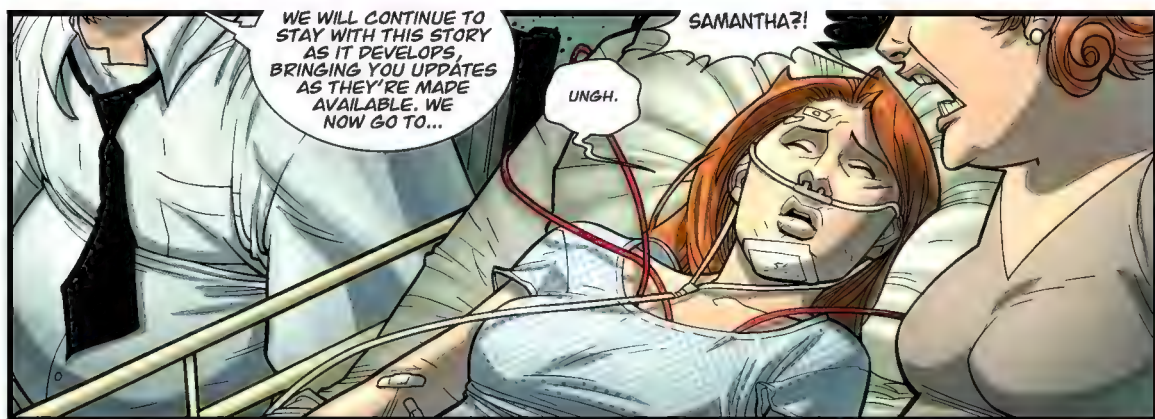
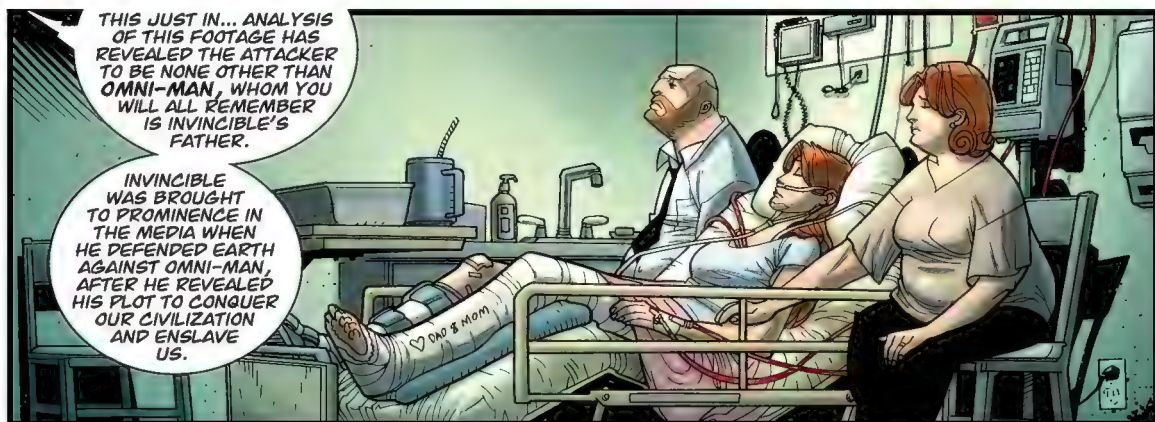
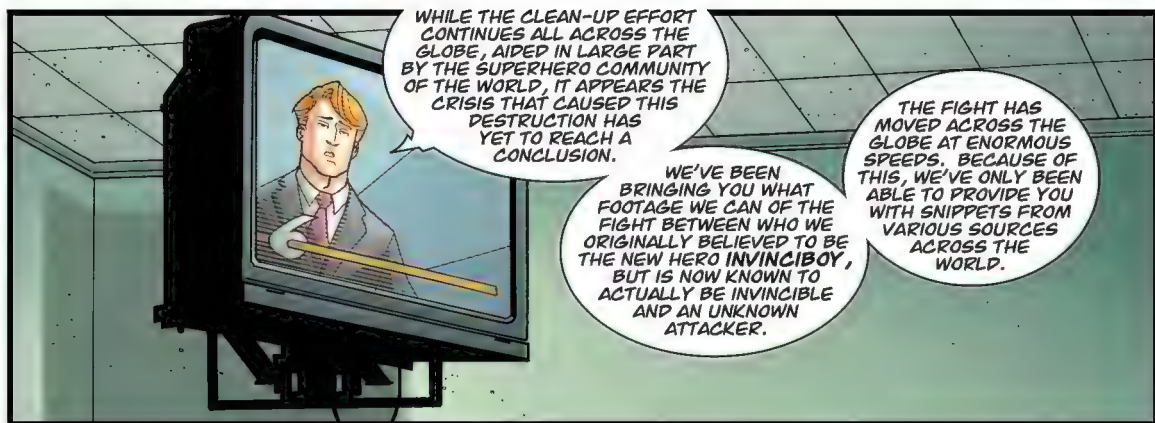


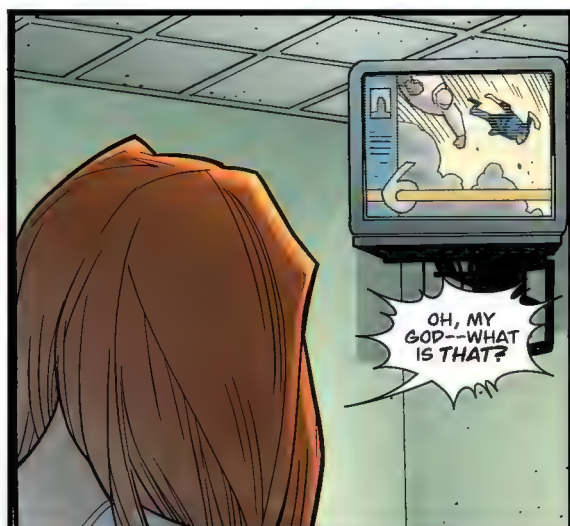
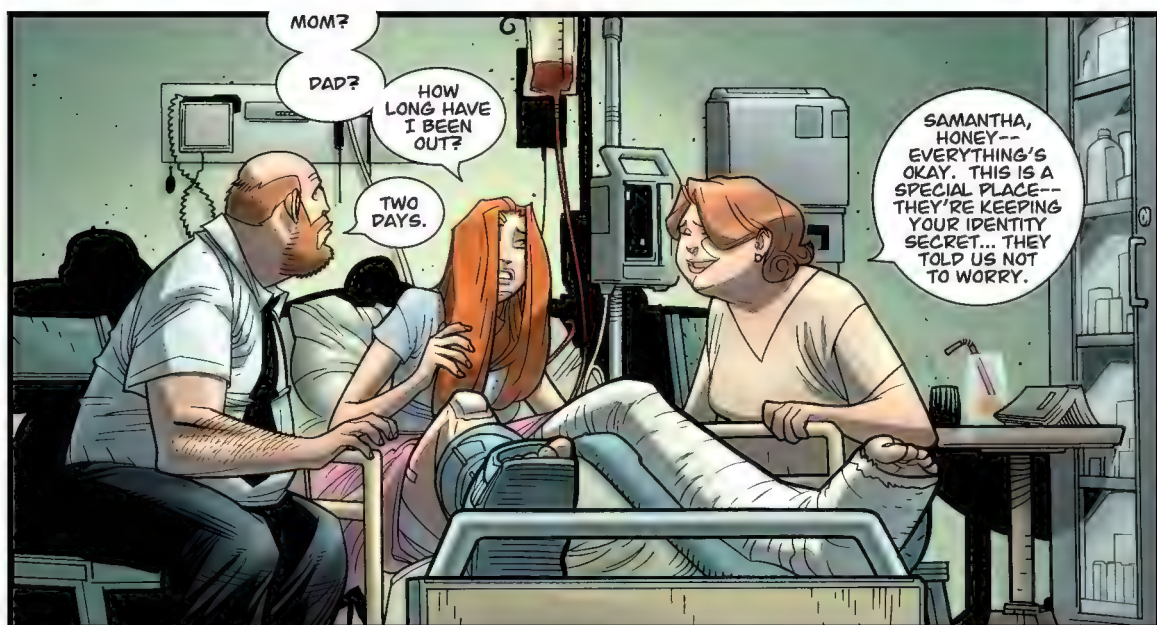
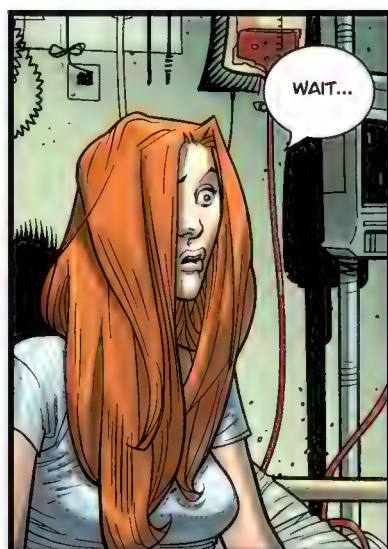


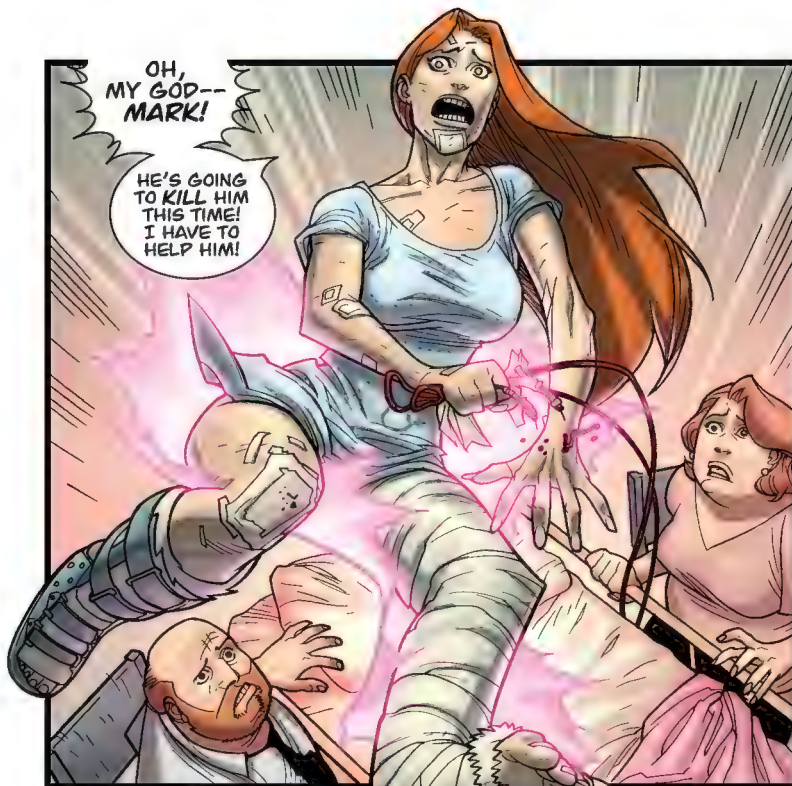


CHAPTER FOUR









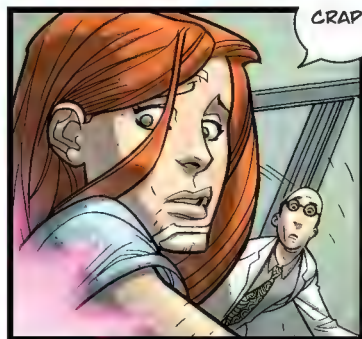
OH,
MY GOD--
MARK!

HE'S GOING
TO KILL HIM
THIS TIME!
I HAVE TO
HELP HIM!



MARK?
YOU
MEAN--?

YOUR
BOYFRIEND?



CRAP.

YOU CAN'T BE DOING THIS--
YOUR INJURIES, YOU COULD
MAKE THEM WORSE. THERE
ARE TESTS--YOU CAN'T
EVEN WALK!



DO I LOOK LIKE I NEED TO
WALK?! LISTEN--IF YOU
GUYS ARE PROTECTING MY
IDENTITY, I NEED TO SPEAK
TO THE MAN WHO SET
THIS UP. GRAY HAIR--
WEIRD SCAR ON HIS
MOUTH.

YOU KNOW
WHO I'M
TALKING ABOUT.
GET HIM ON
THE PHONE--
NOW!

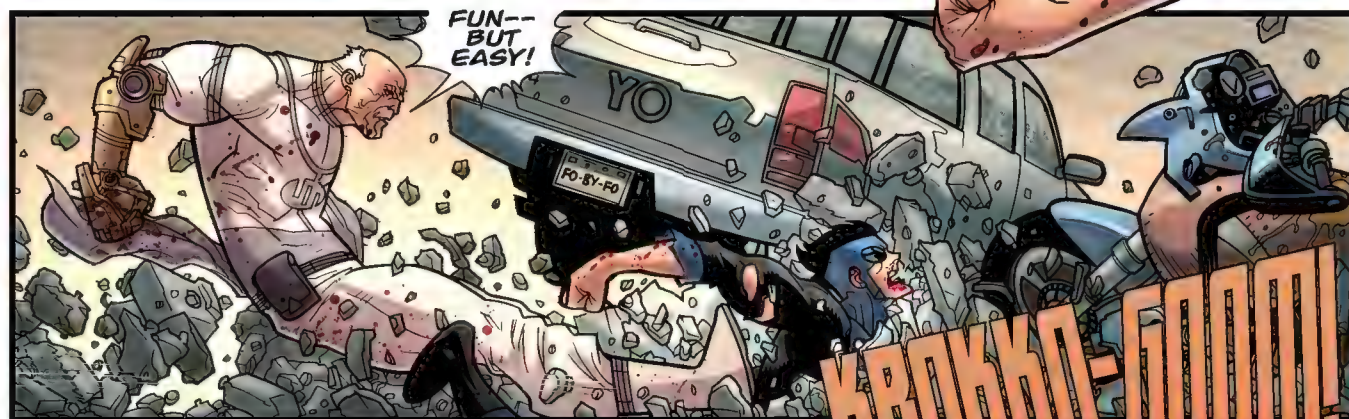
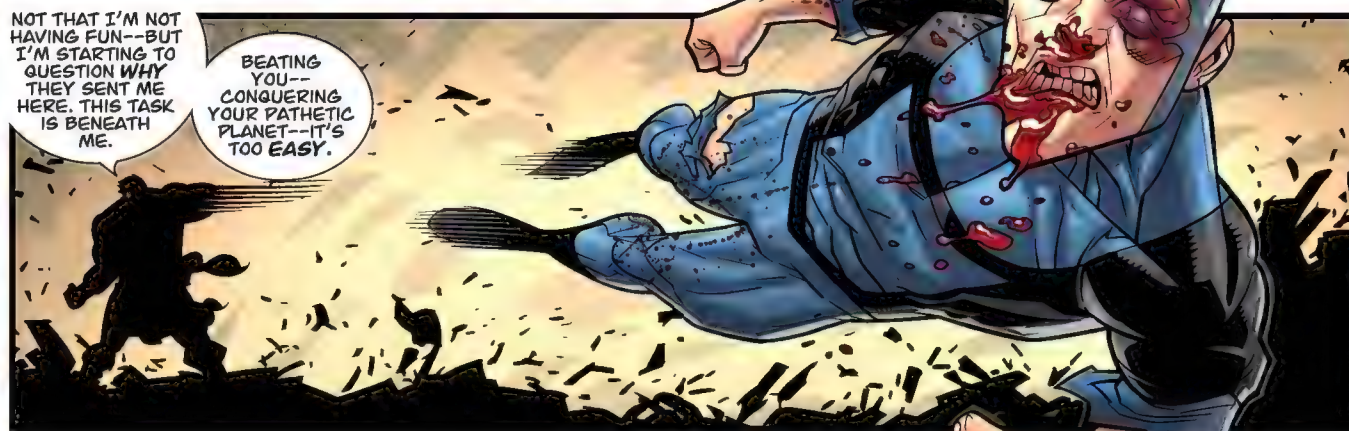


I'LL--

I'LL
SEE WHAT
I CAN
DO.



I'M
COMING,
MARK.





EAT ONE,
YOU OLD
SACK OF
TURDS!

WIRNKK!



C'MON--
HURRY!

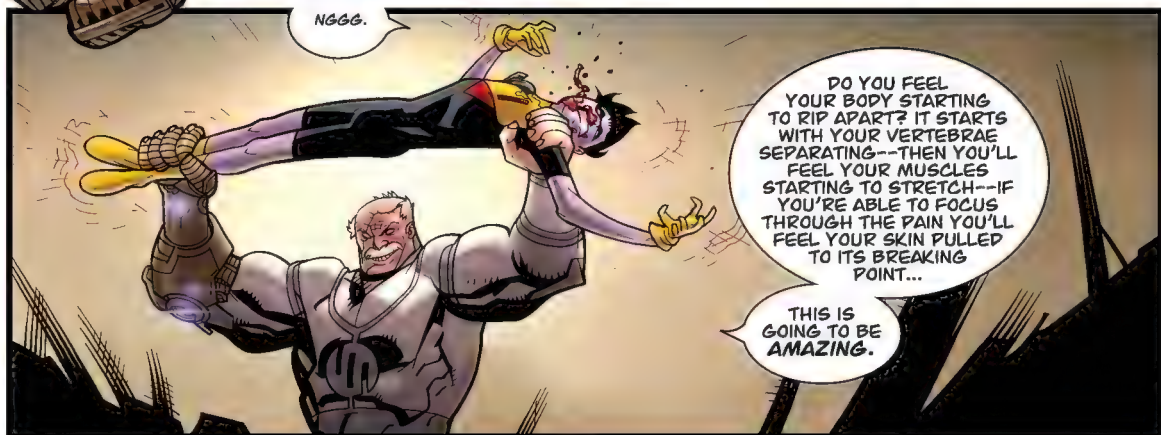
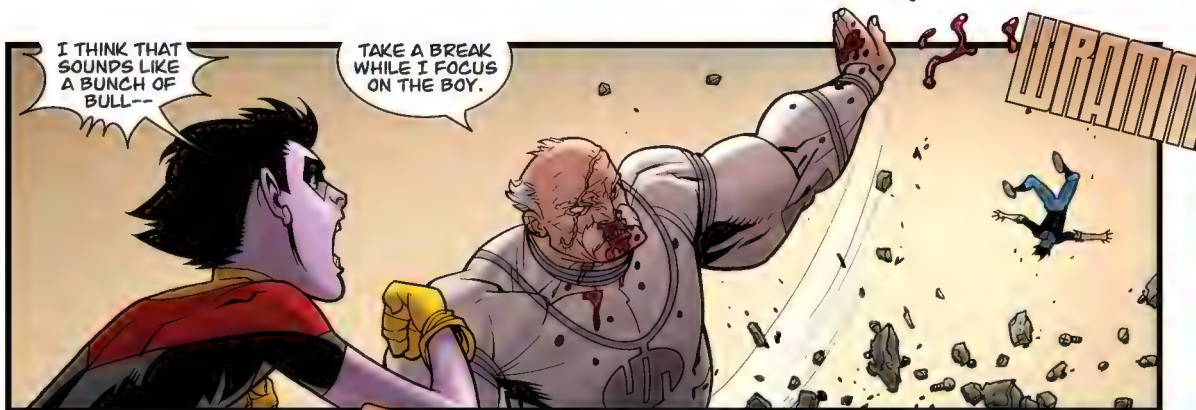
WHY DID
YOU COME BACK?
HE'LL KILL YOU,
OLIVER. PLEASE,
JUST RUN!

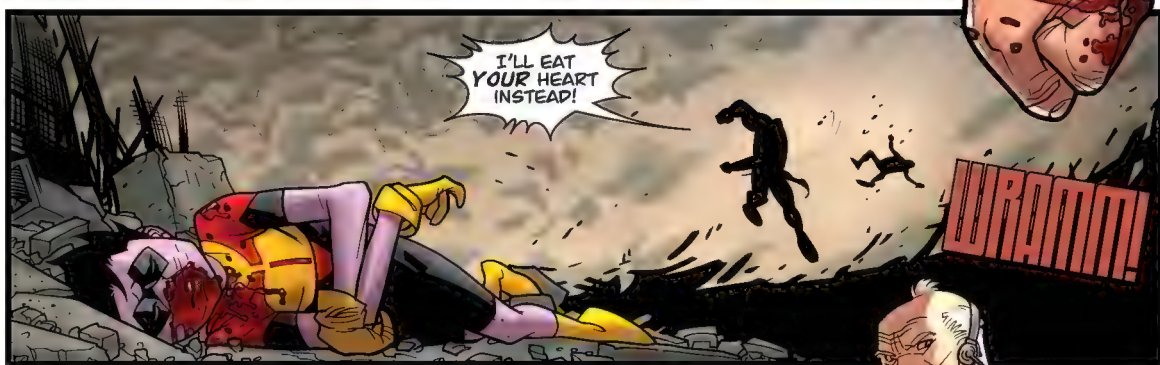
YOU CAN'T
FIGHT HIM
ALONE--HE'S
OLD AS DIRT--
WE CAN TAKE
HIM DOWN
TOGETHER.

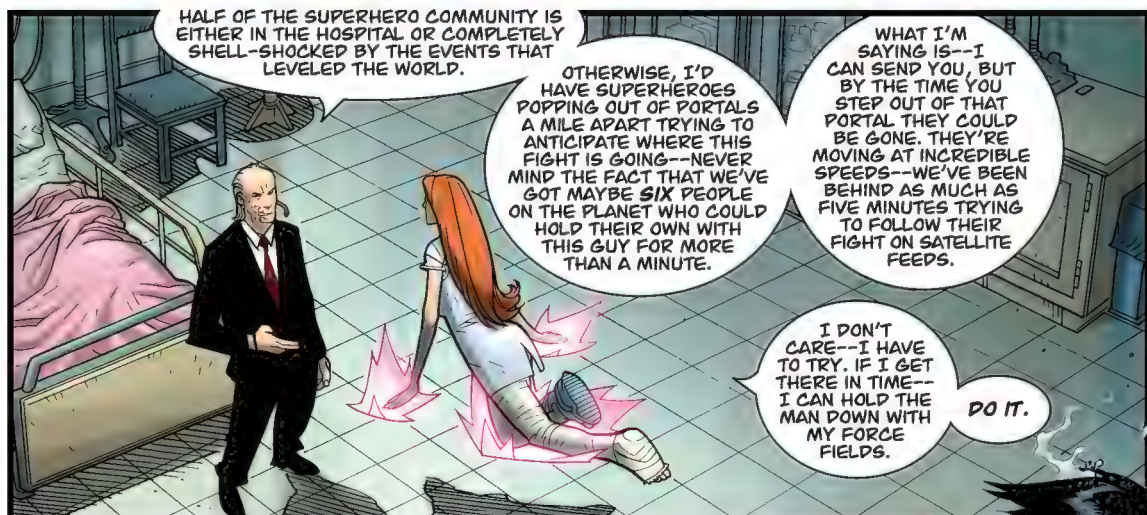
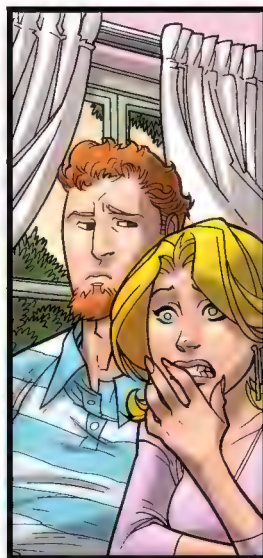
TRUST ME,
YOU CAN'T.
I'M OLD--
NOT WEAK.

I DO
THANK YOU FOR
COMING BACK.
I WELCOME THE
SECOND CHANCE.

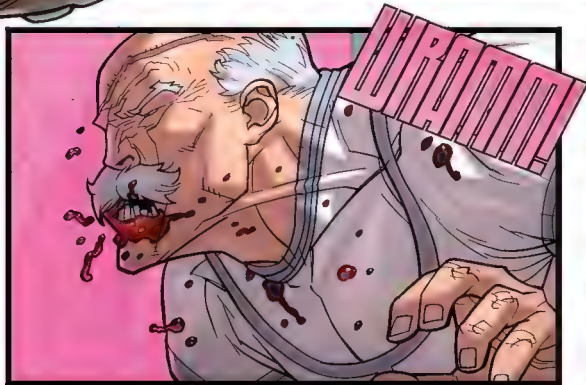
I'M GOING
TO SPLIT YOU
IN HALF AND
EAT YOUR HEART.
HOW'S THAT
SOUND?

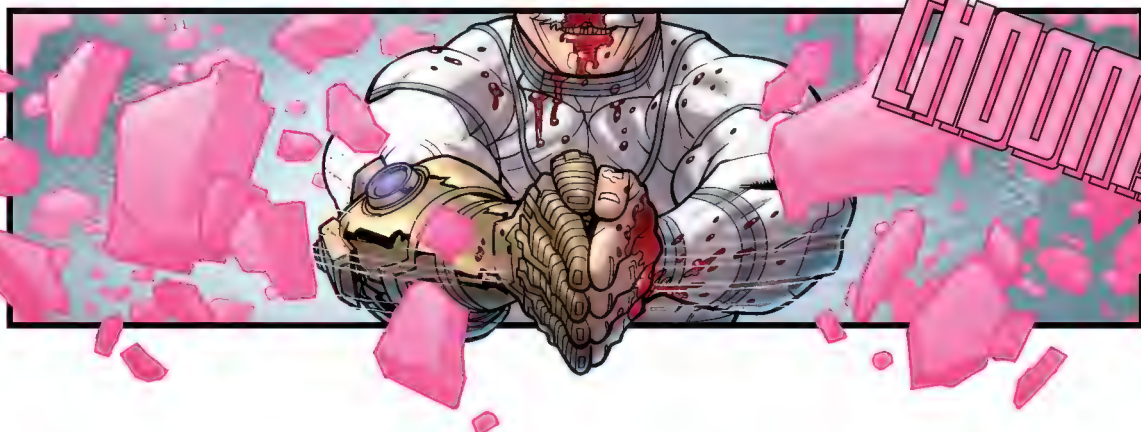
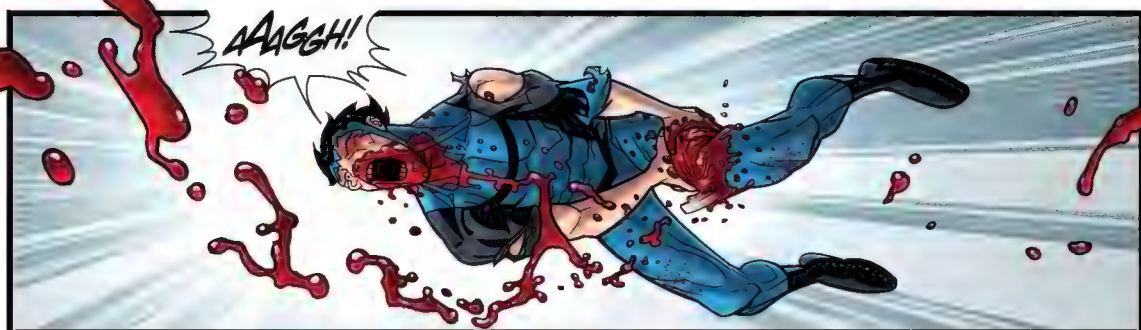
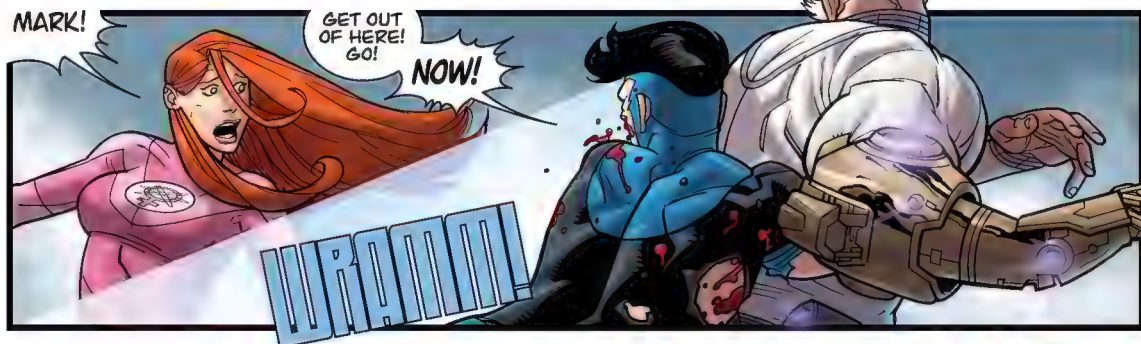


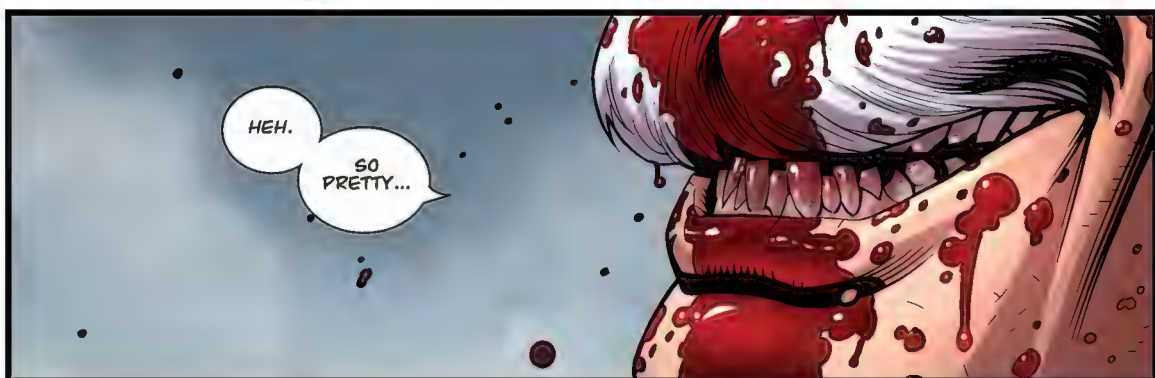
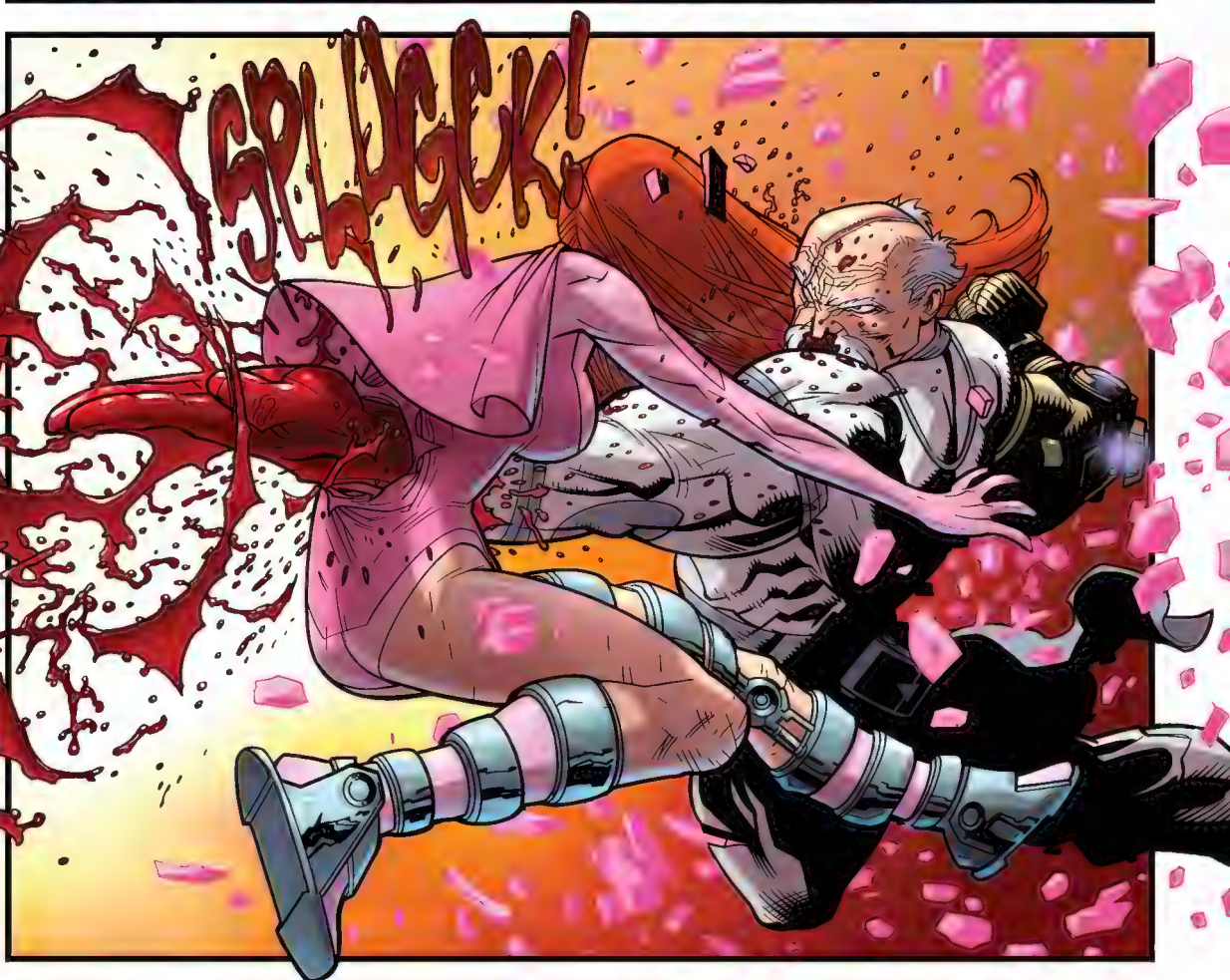
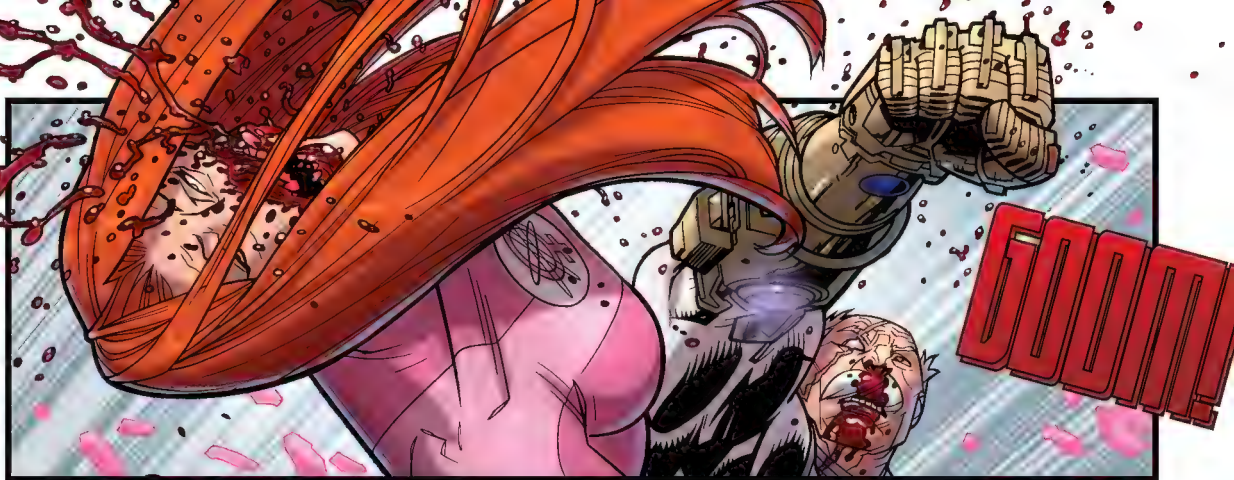


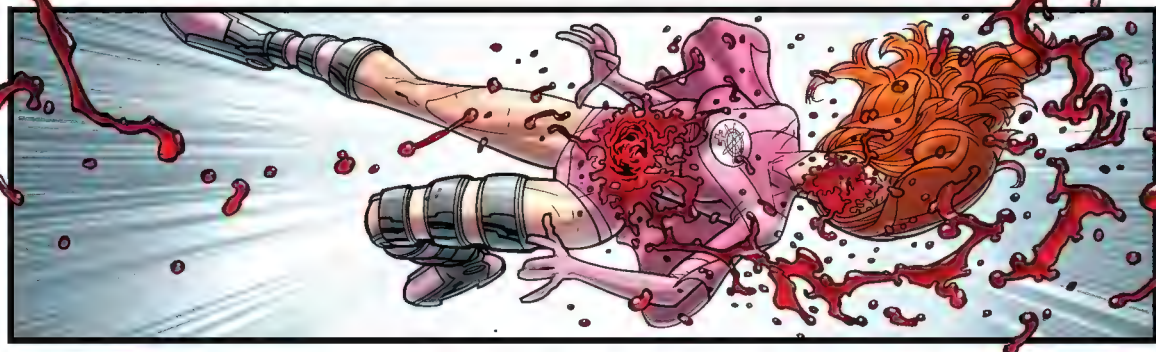
















--BREATHING.



SHE MUST HAVE REALLY
CARED FOR YOU--TO DO
WHAT SHE DID HERE. SURELY
SHE WASN'T STUPID ENOUGH
TO THINK SHE COULD
ACTUALLY HURT
ME.

SHE MUST
HAVE DONE
ALL THIS
FOR YOU.

SUCH A
STRONG BOND,
WE VILTRUMITES
HAVE NOTHING LIKE
THIS. IT BREEDS
WEAKNESS. STILL,
IT'S ADMIRABLE. I
AM BEGINNING TO
UNDERSTAND
YOUR AFFINITY
FOR THESE
CREATURES.

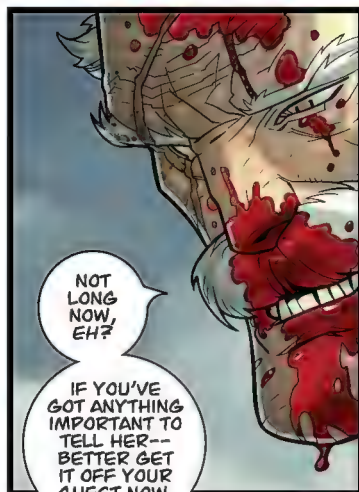


DELICIOUS.



EVE!

EVE--
DON'T!



NOT
LONG
NOW,
EH?

IF YOU'VE
GOT ANYTHING
IMPORTANT TO
TELL HER--
BETTER GET
IT OFF YOUR
CHEST NOW.



I SHOULD
DO THIS NOW--
DON'T KNOW
WHEN I'LL GET
THE CHANCE
AGAIN.

I WANT
TO THANK
YOU, MARK
GRAYSON...
INVINCIBLE.

REALLY.

FROM
THE
BOTTOM
OF MY
HEART.

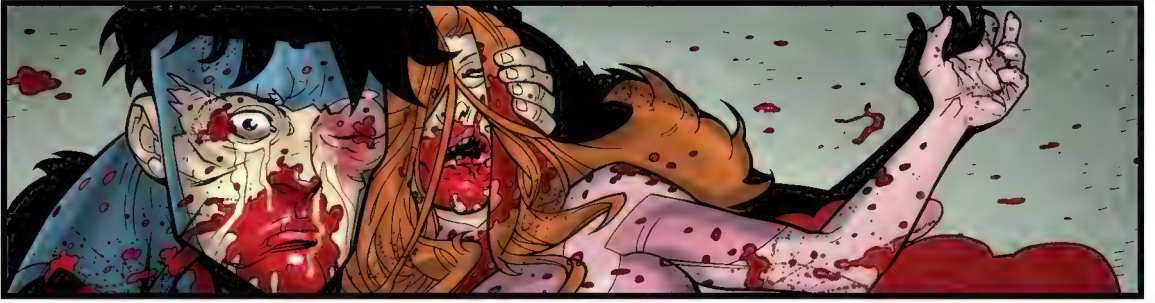
IT'S NOT
VERY OFTEN
THAT I GET TO
CUT LOOSE LIKE
THIS. I MEAN
REALLY CUT LOOSE
LIKE I HAVE HERE.
USUALLY, THERE
ARE SO MANY
MISSION
PARAMETERS.

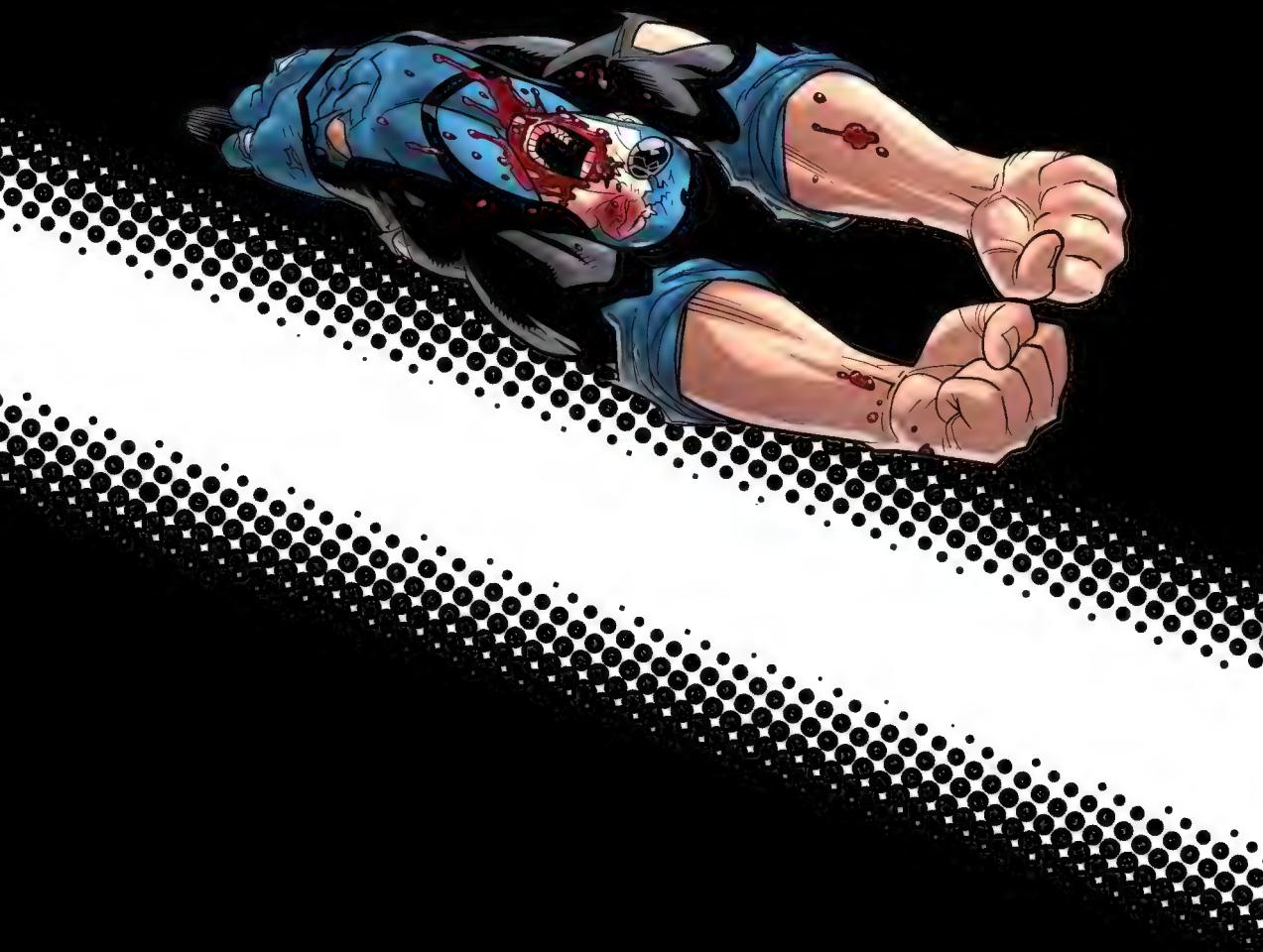
"DON'T
DESTROY
THIS."

"KEEP
THIS
PERSON
ALIVE."

BUT NOT HERE--
NOT WITH *THIS* PLANET.
FOR WHATEVER REASON,
I DON'T REALLY CARE
WHY, TO BE HONEST, I
WAS TOLD--TAKE CONTROL,
NO MATTER WHAT IT
TAKES... TAKE CONTROL
OF THE PLANET.

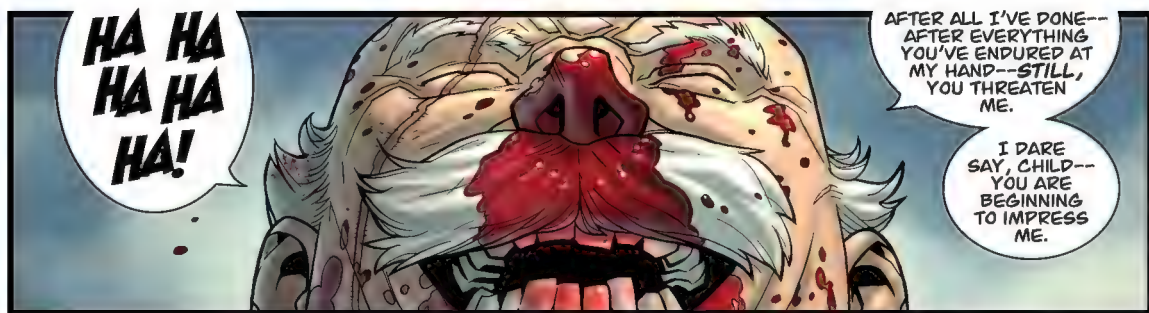
SO WHATEVER
YOU DID TO PISS
US OFF--THANK
YOU. THIS HAS
BEEN FUN.



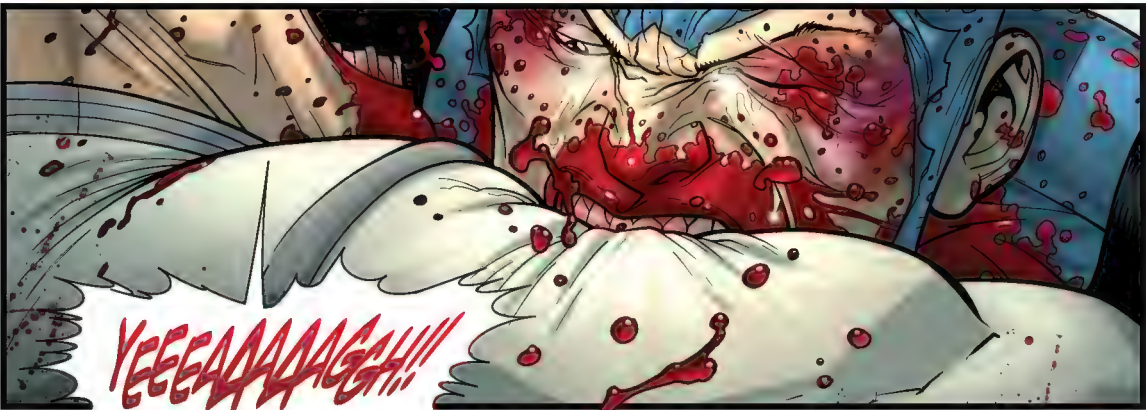
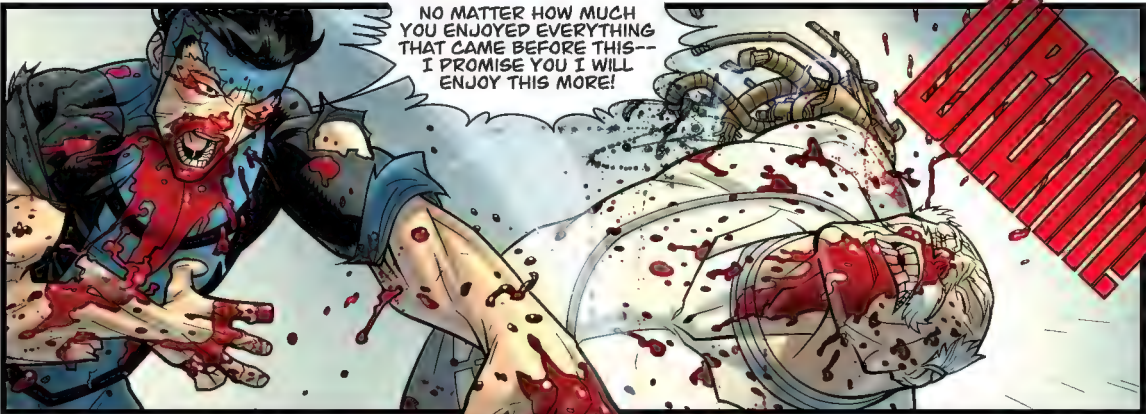
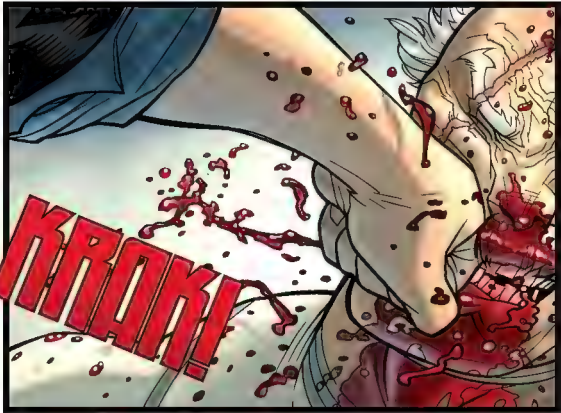
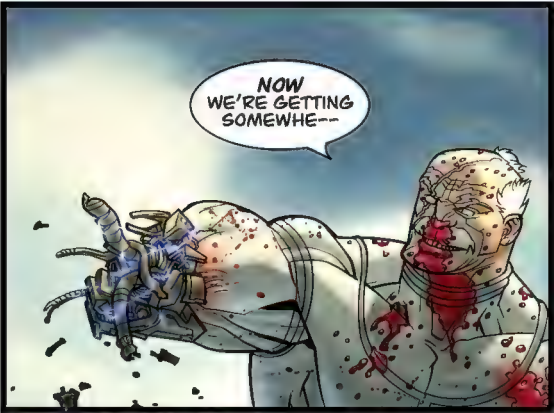


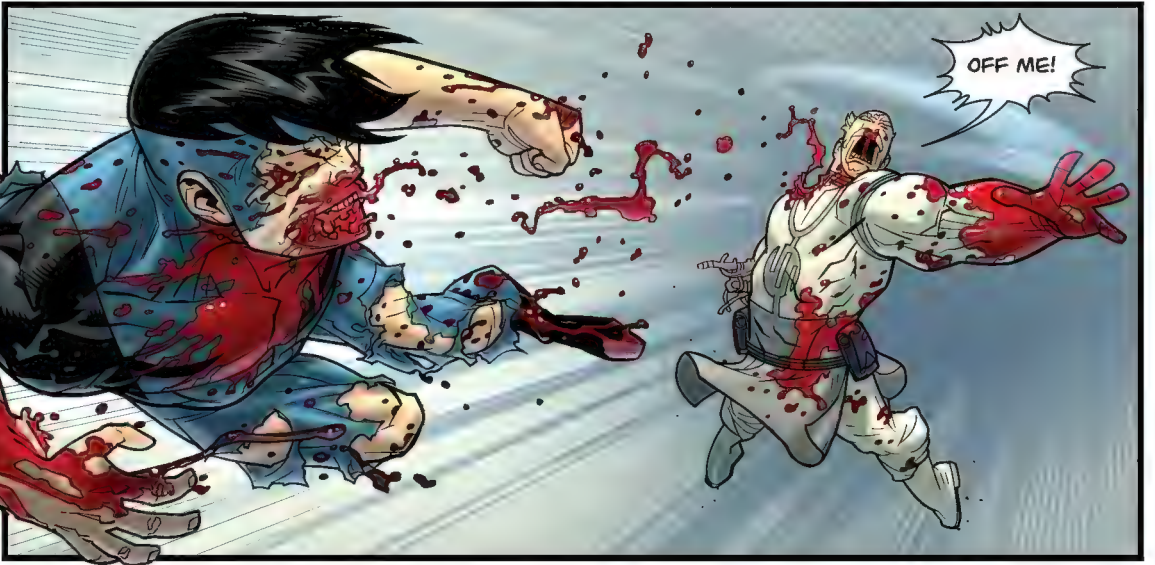
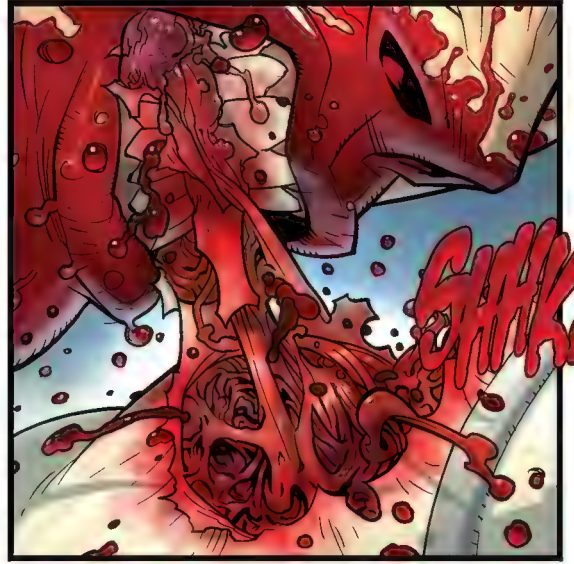
CHAPTER FIVE

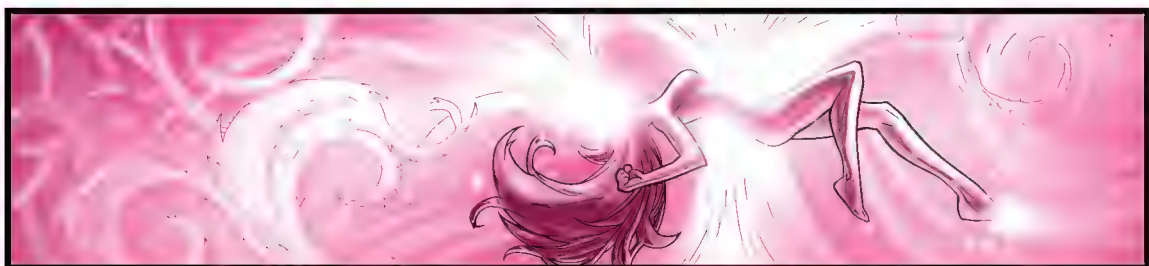
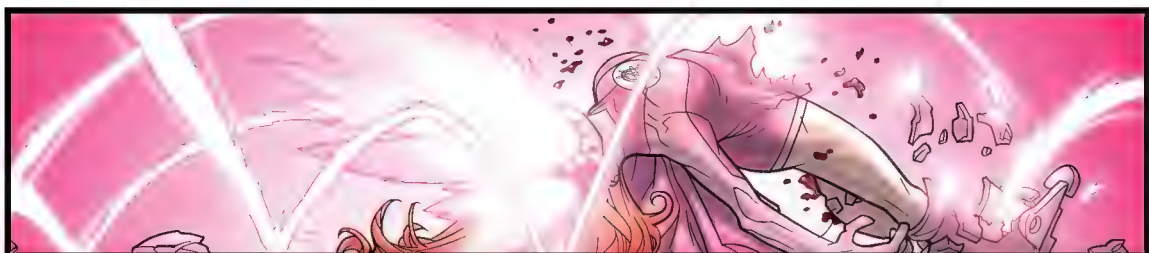
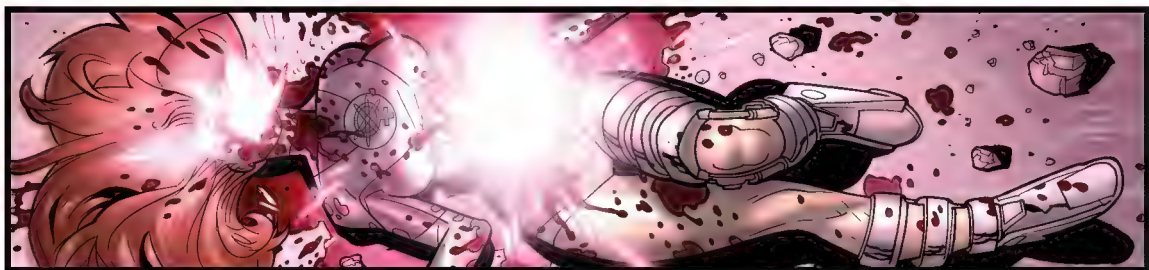
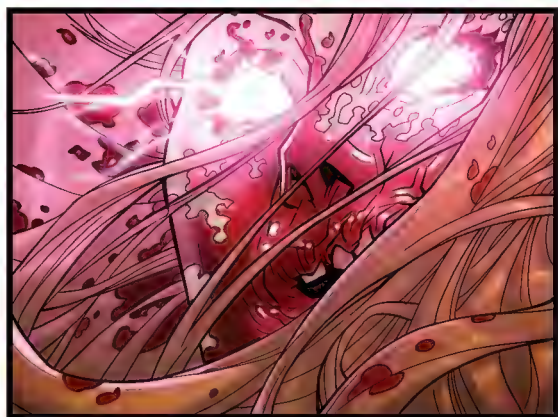


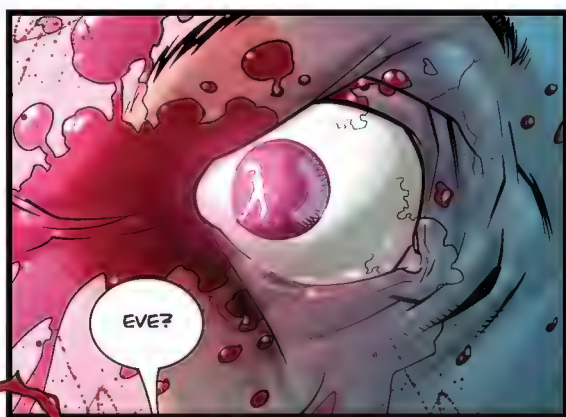
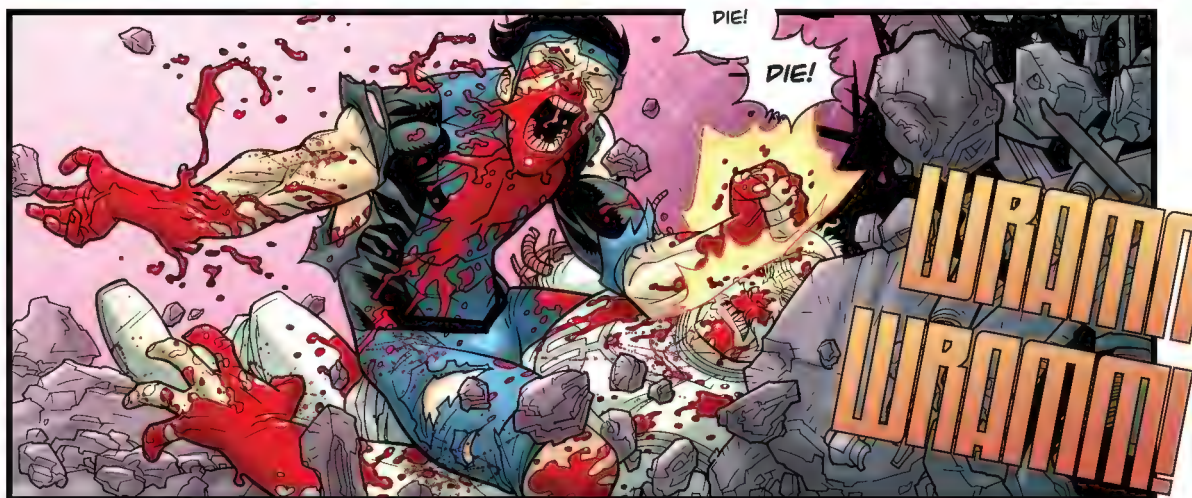












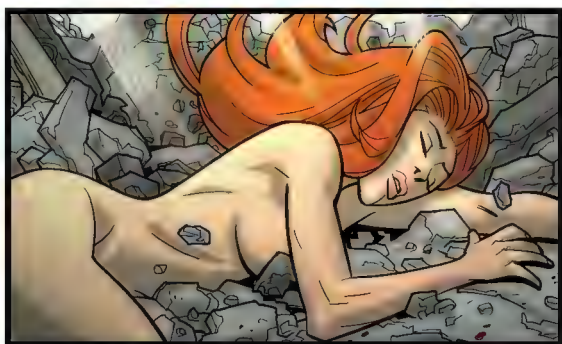
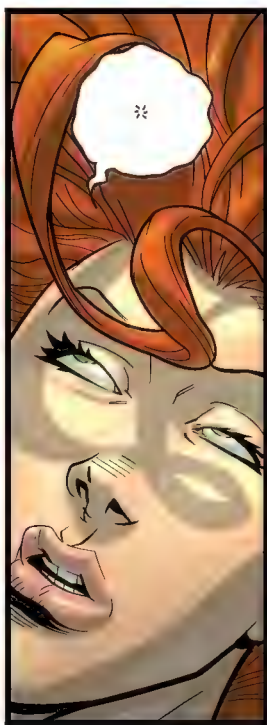
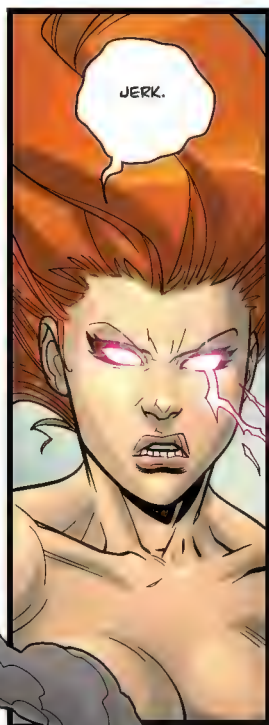
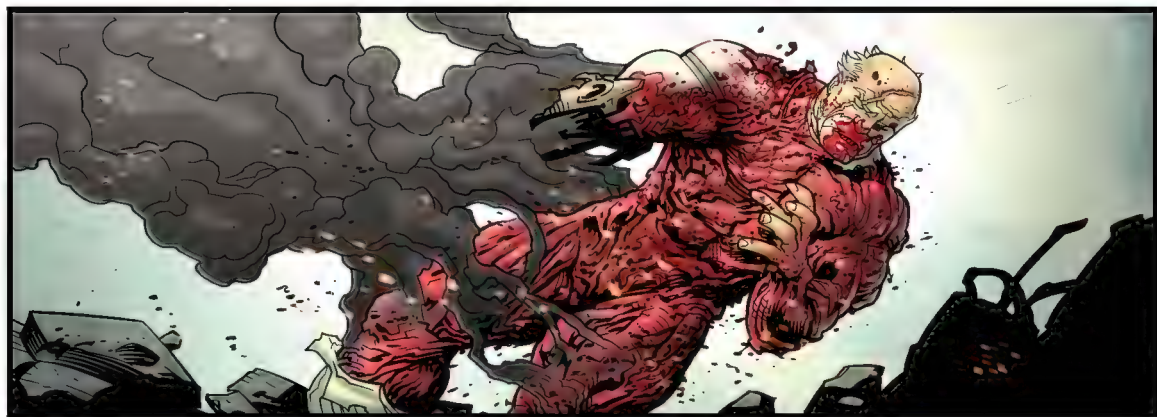


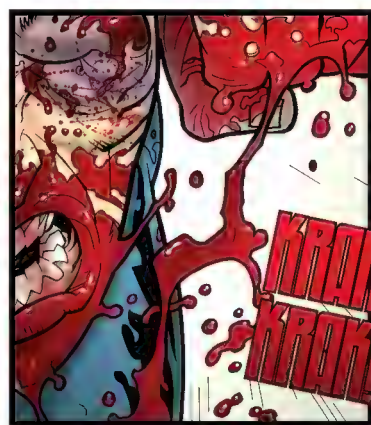
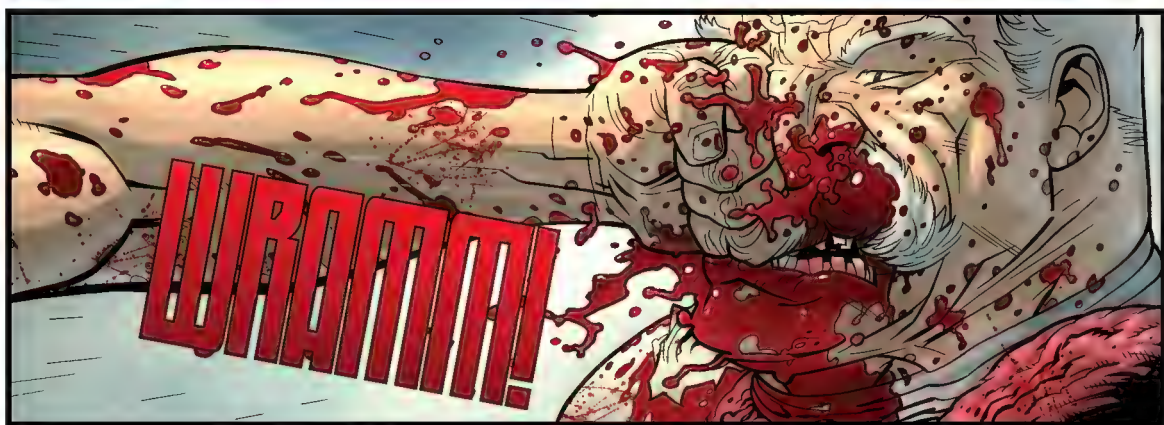
MARK!!

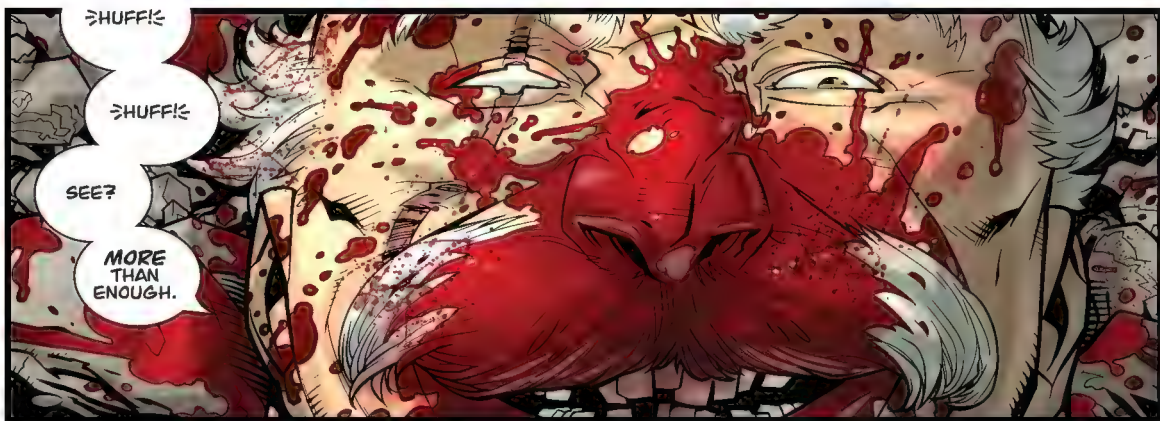


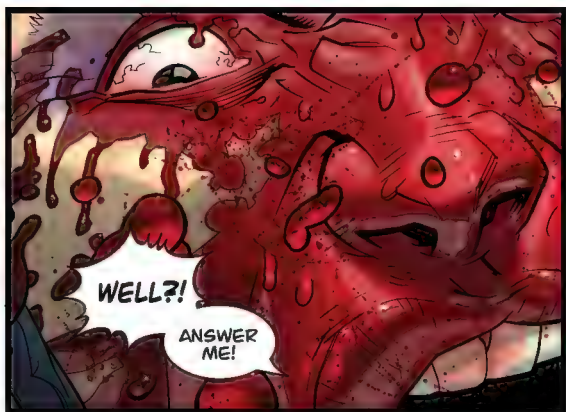
HURGGGH!!

FWA-BOOM!!

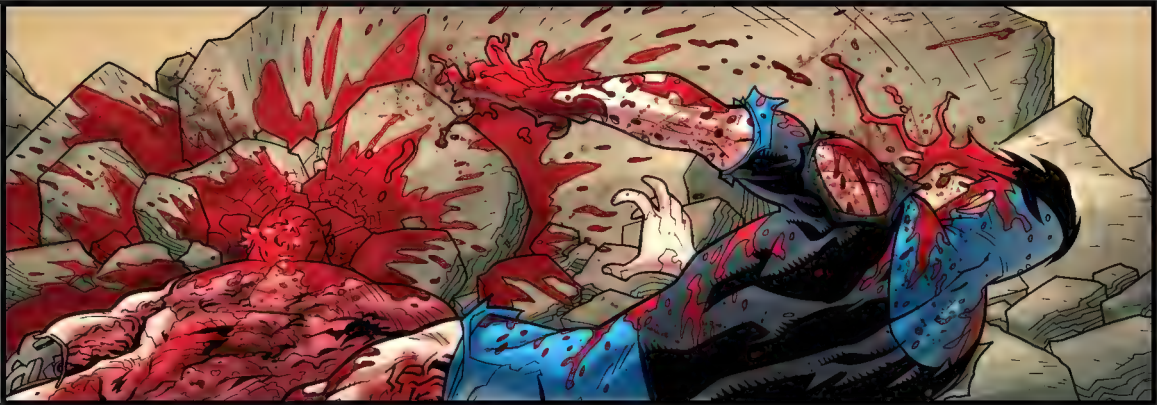
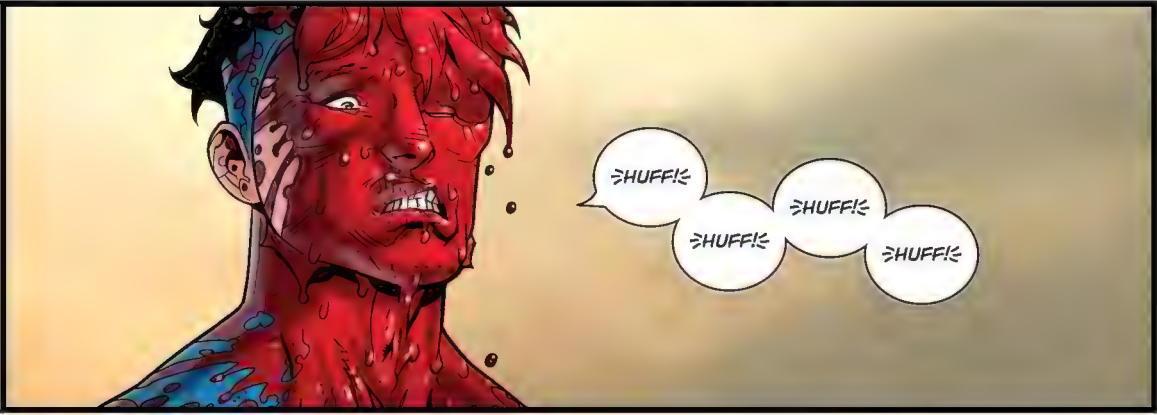
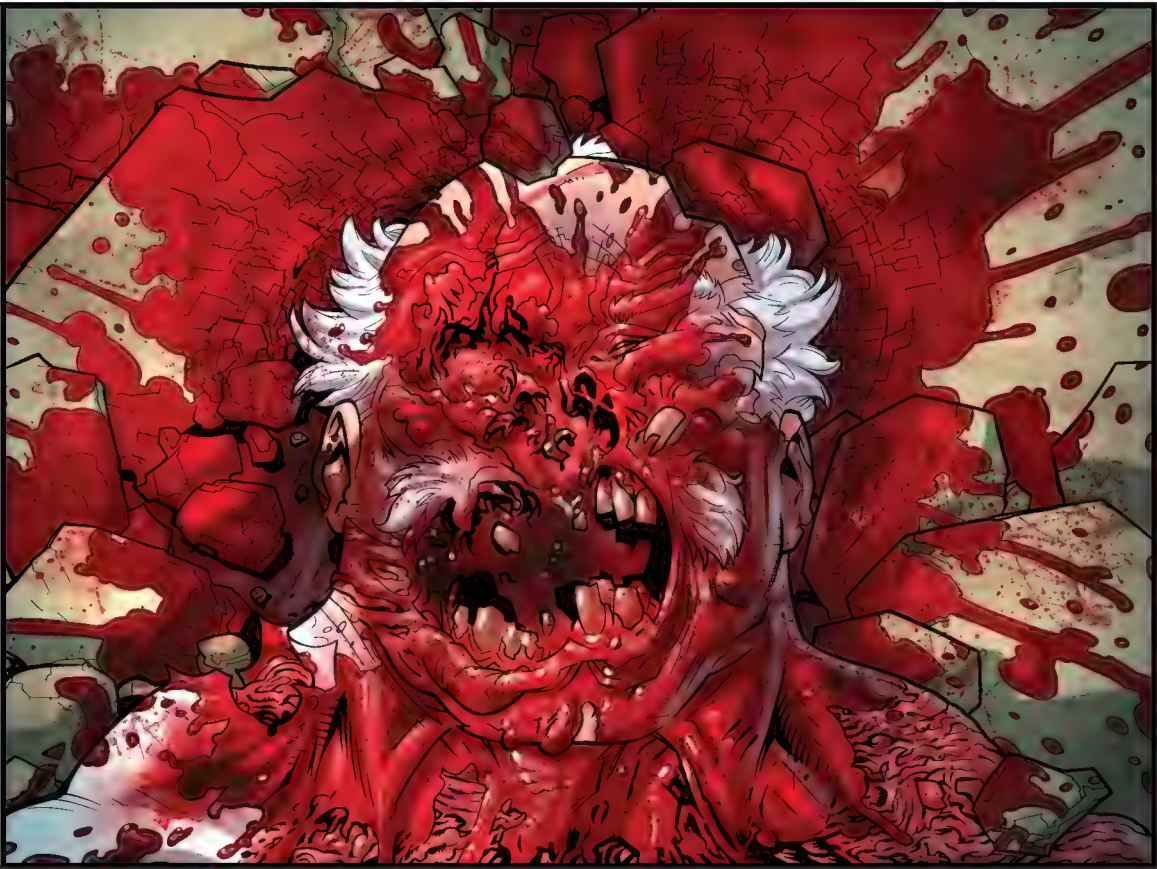


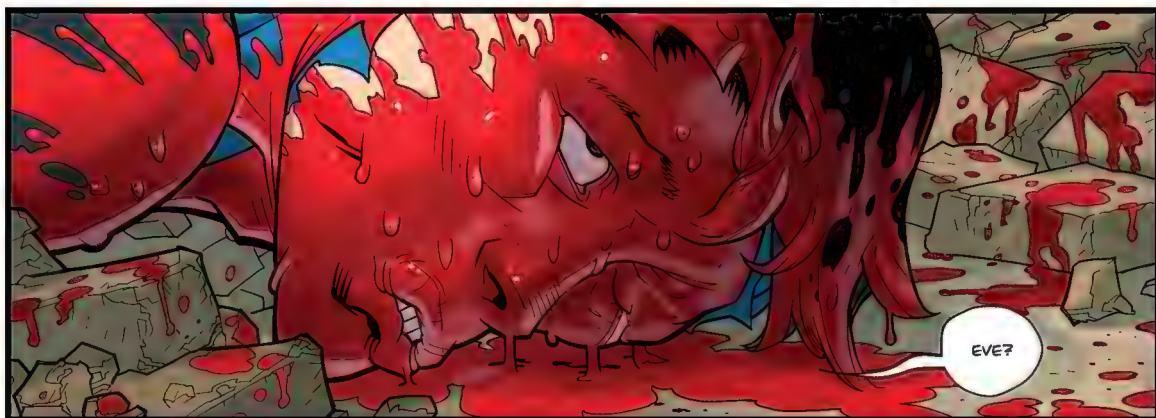








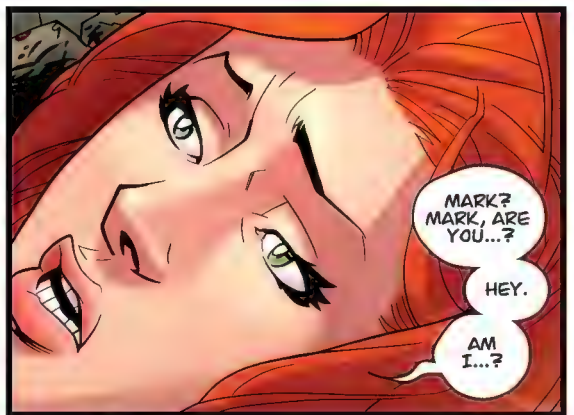
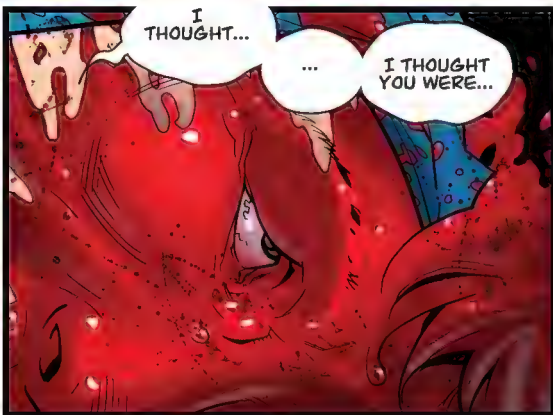
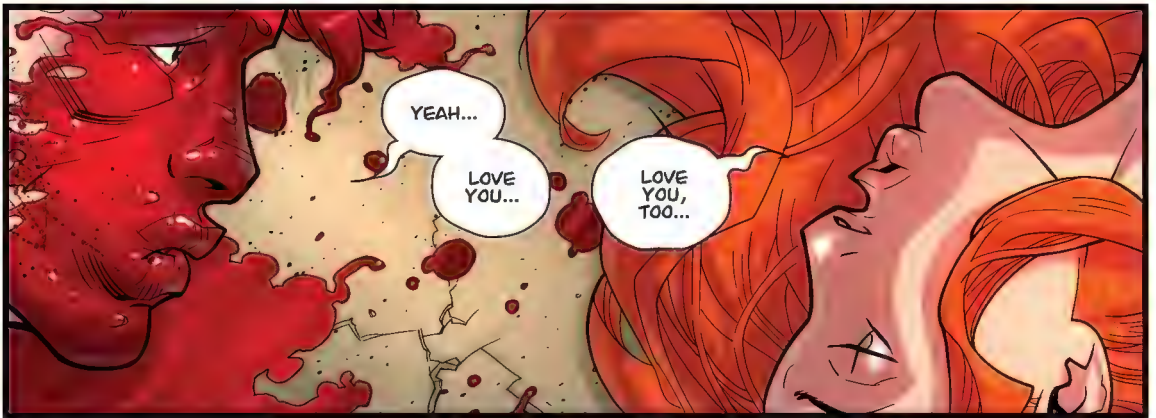
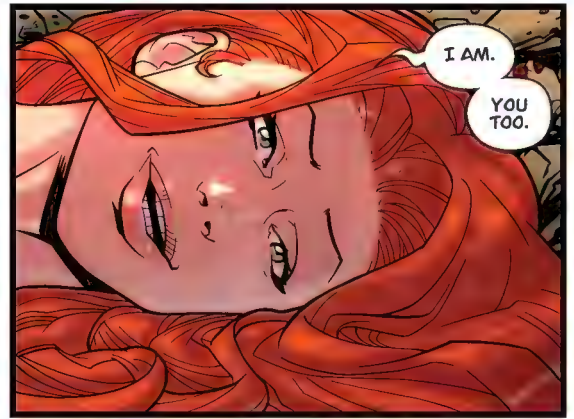
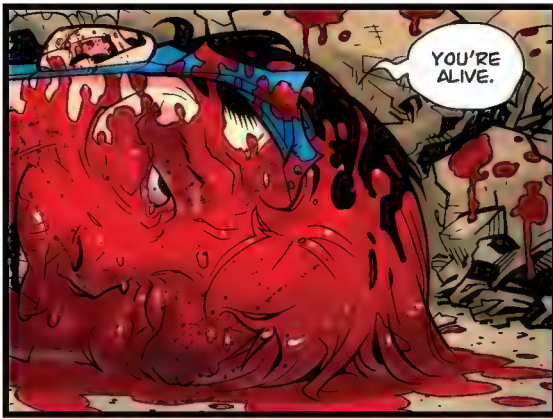
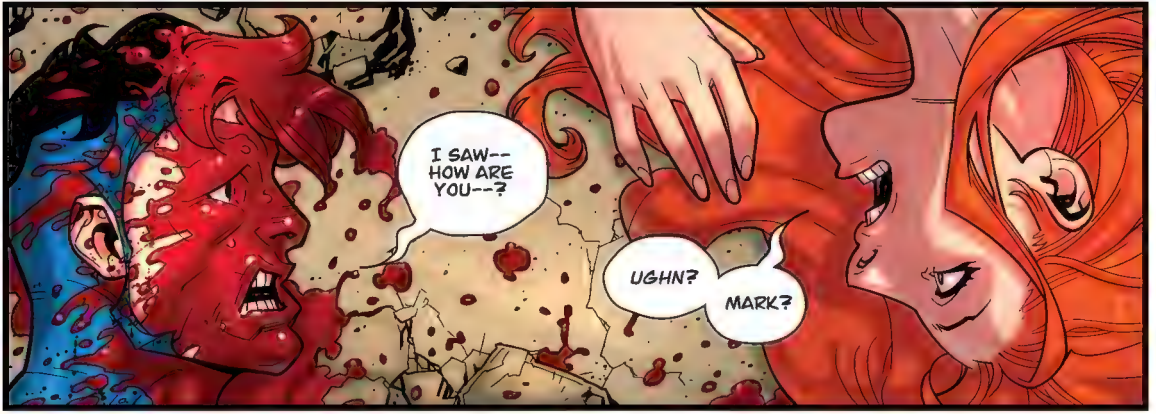


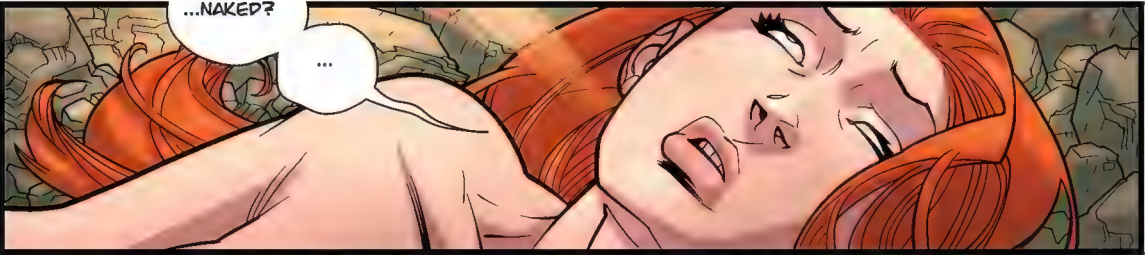




EVE?

HOW?

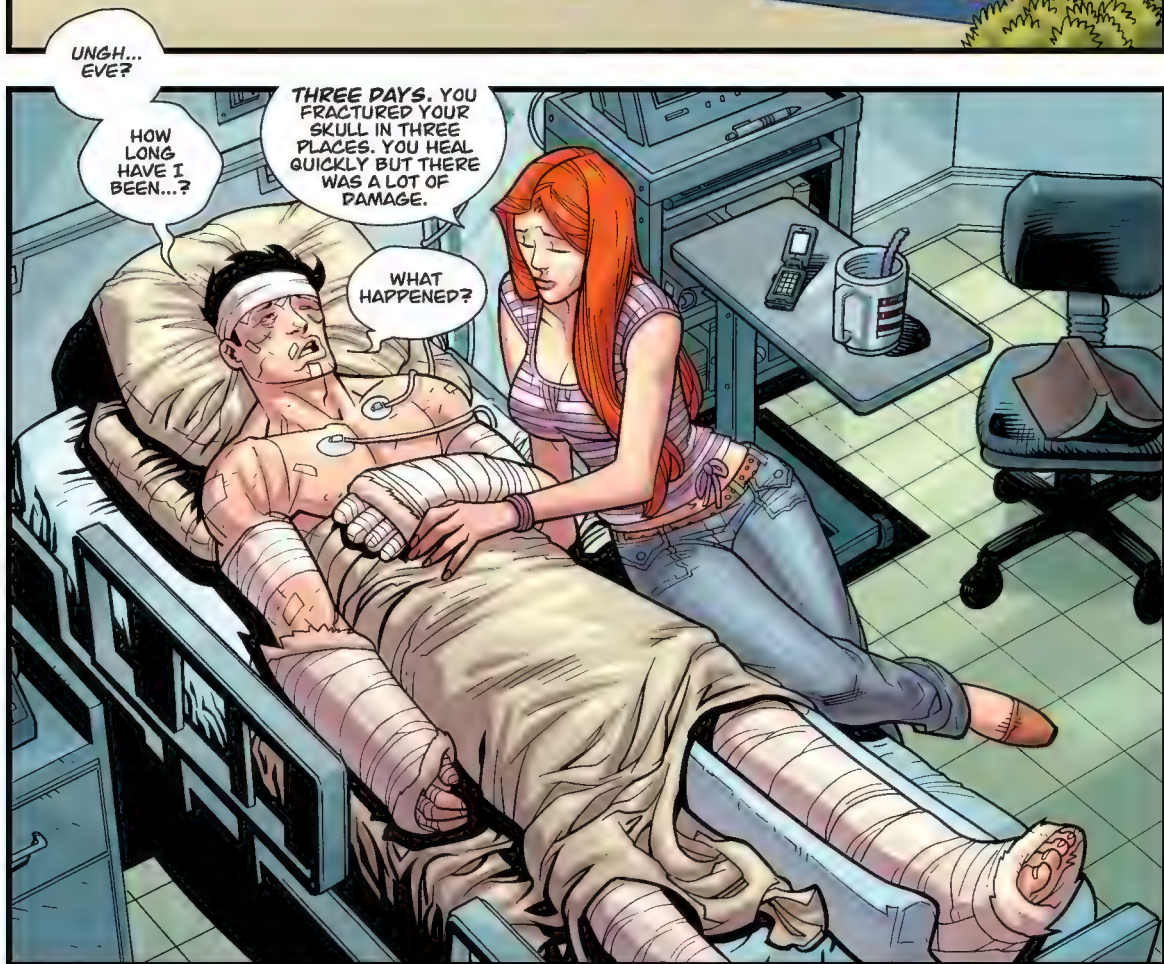
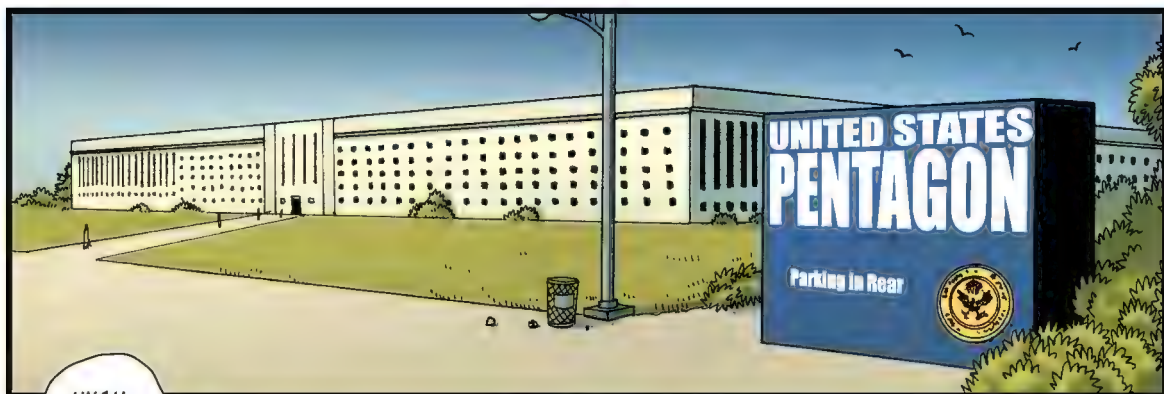


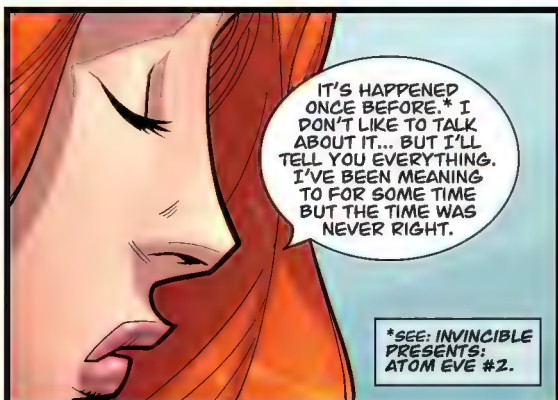
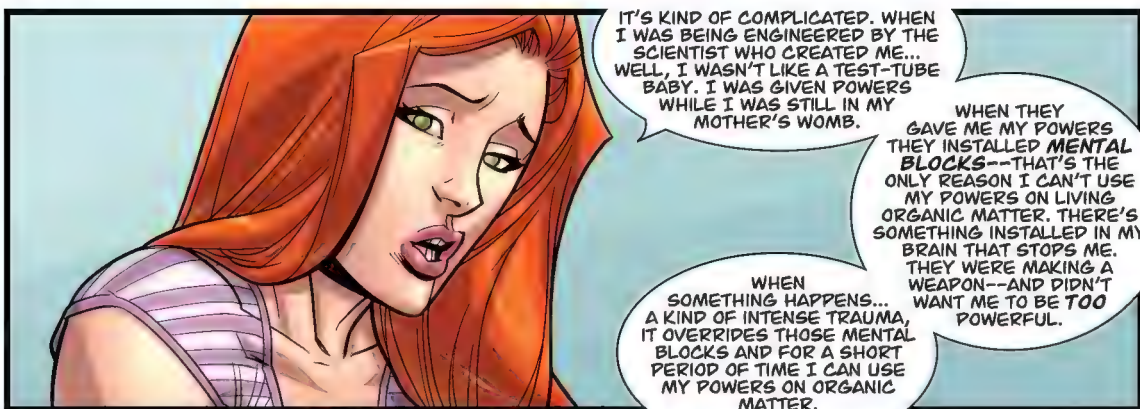
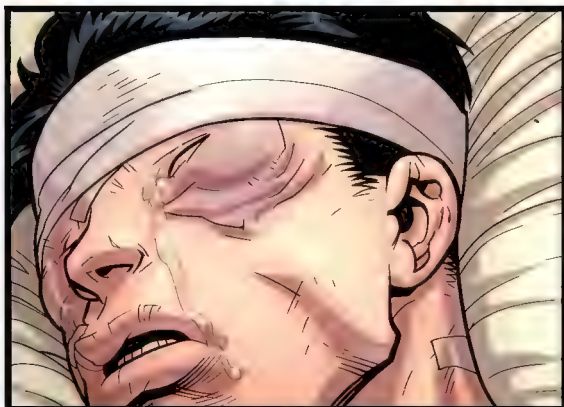


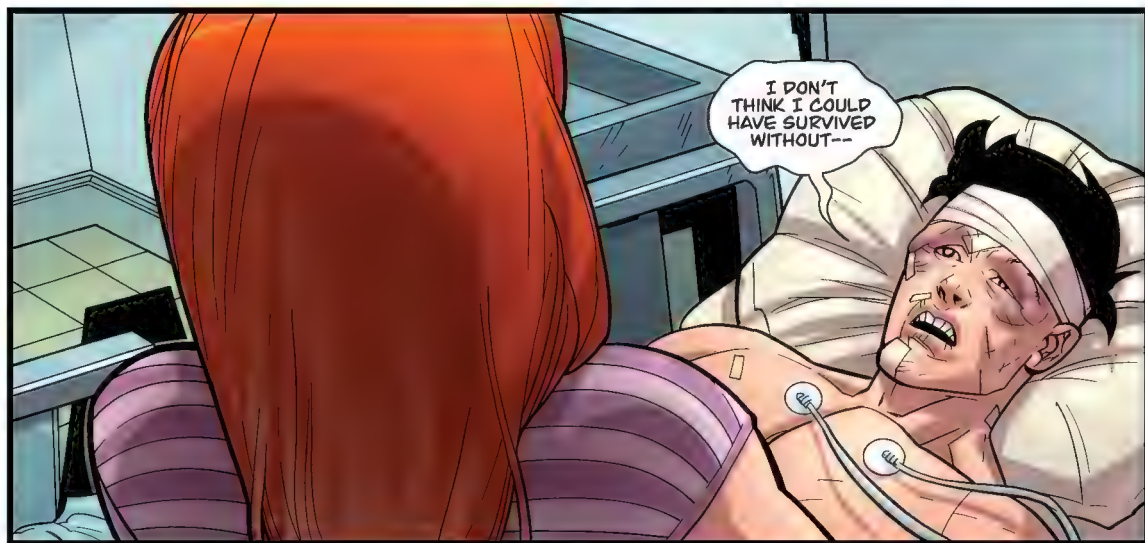
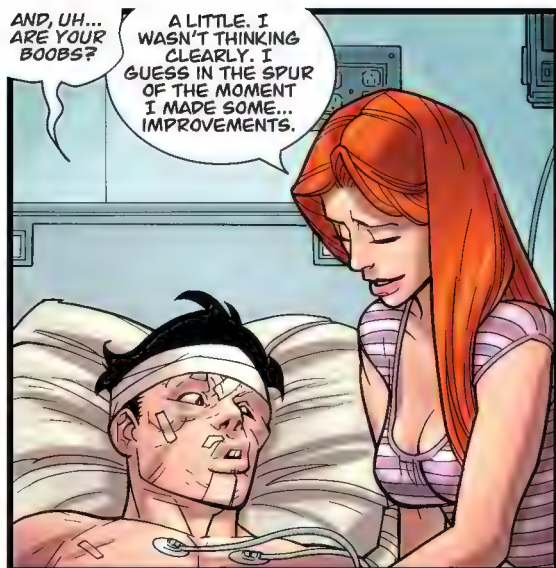


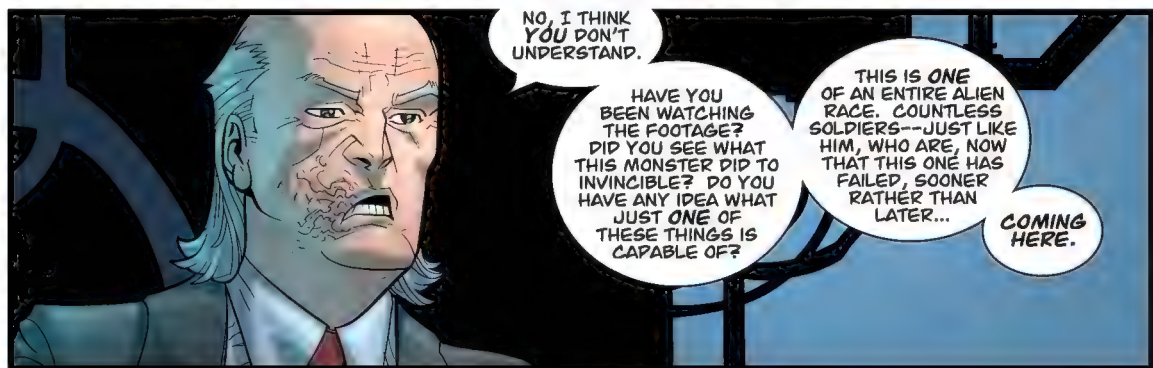
CHAPTER SIX

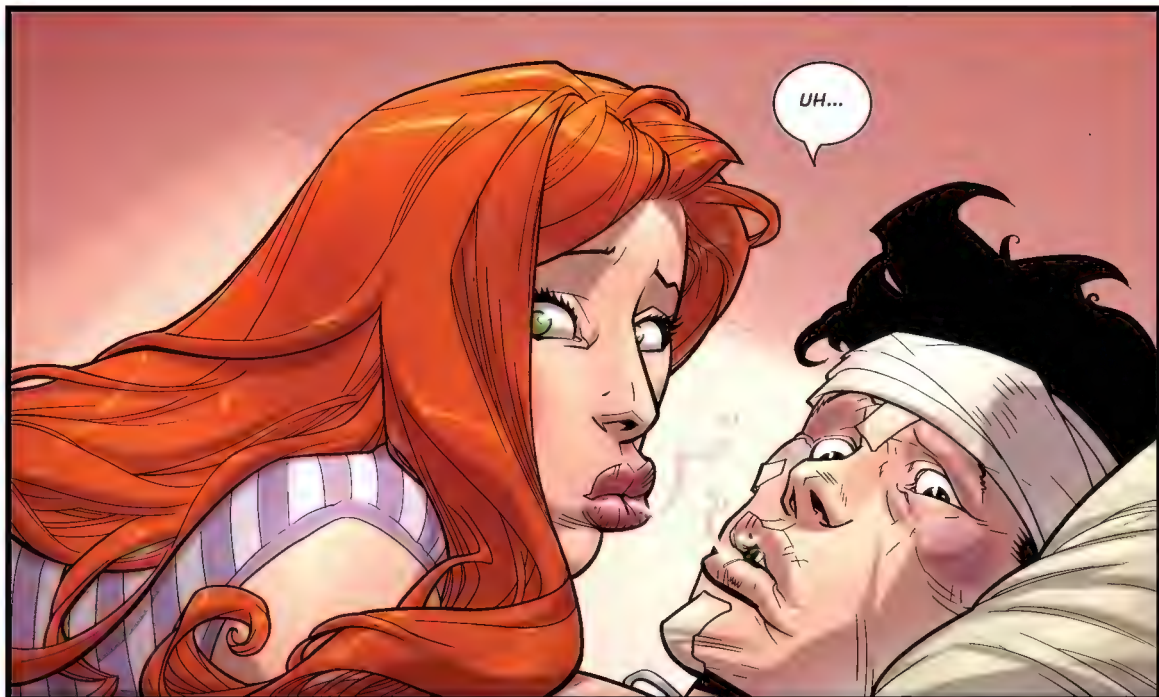


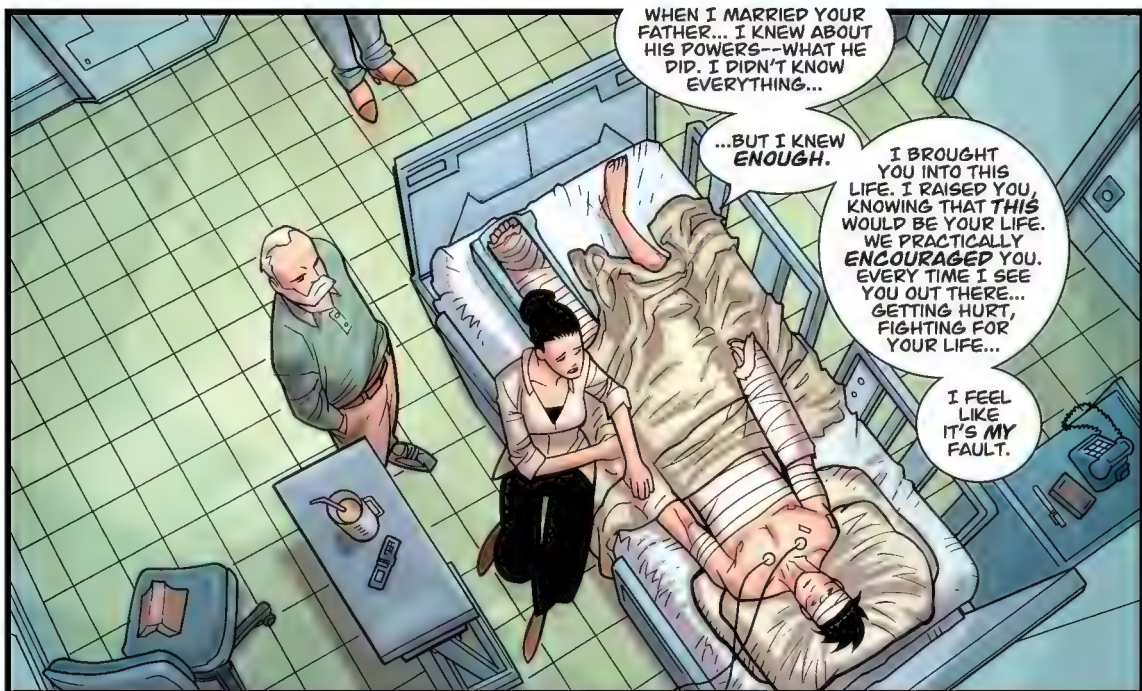


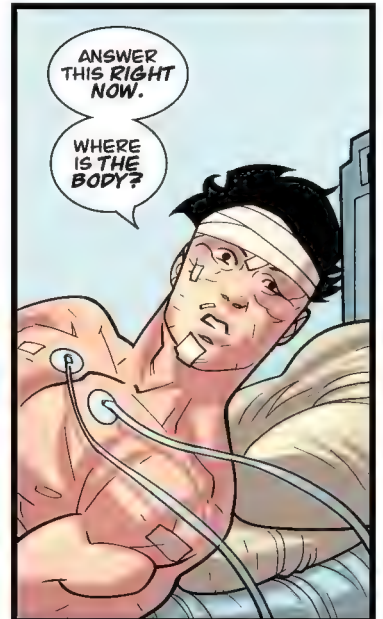
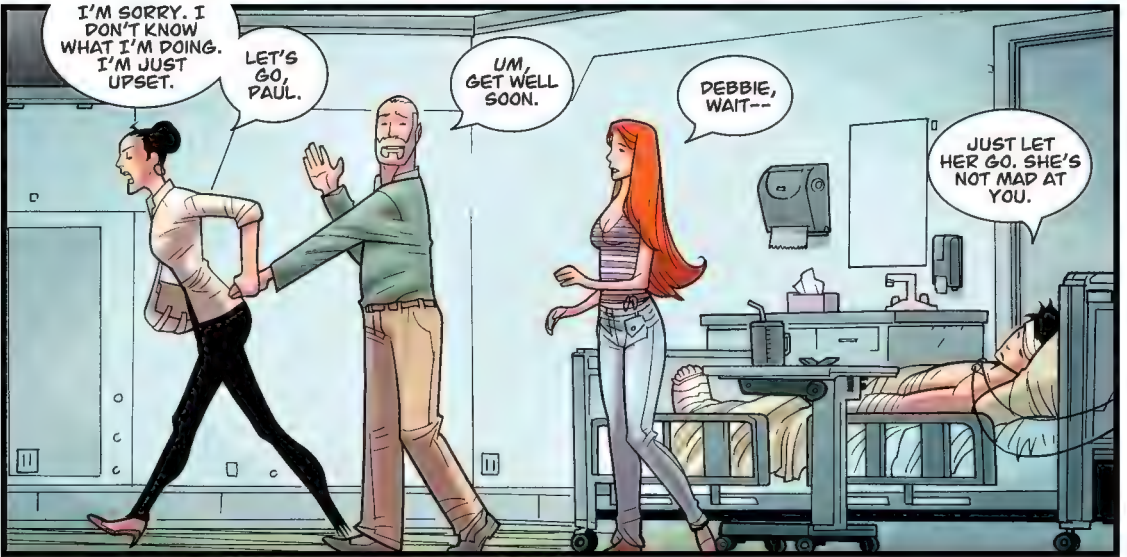


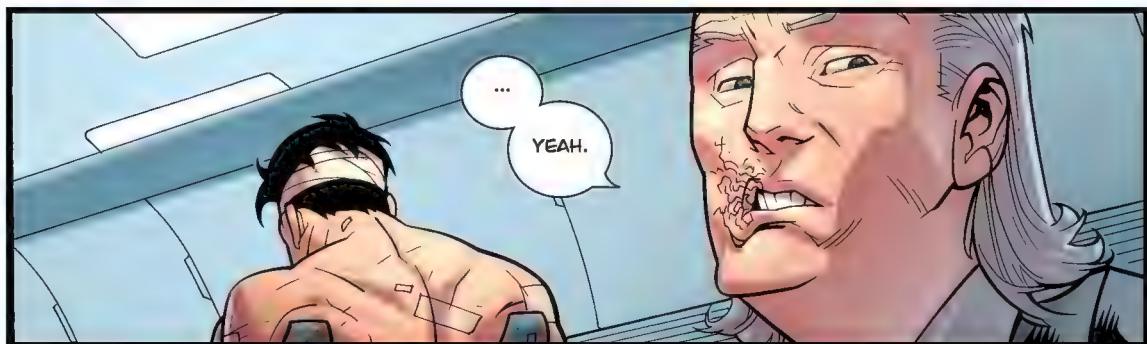


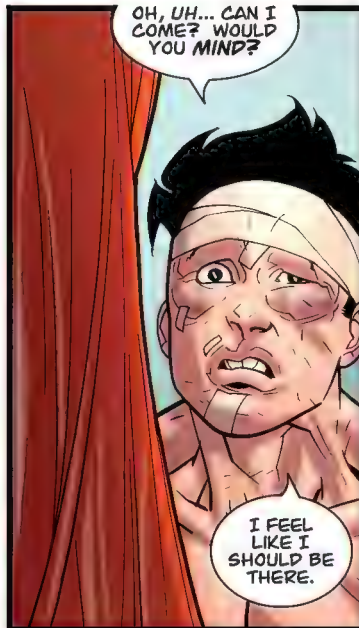
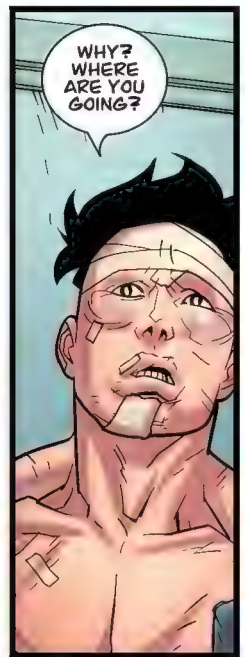
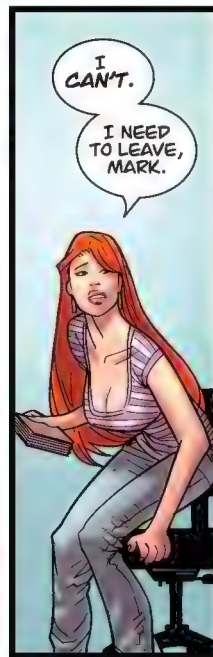
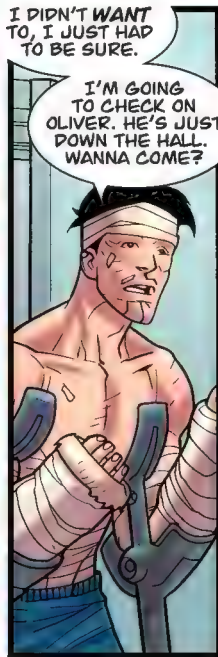
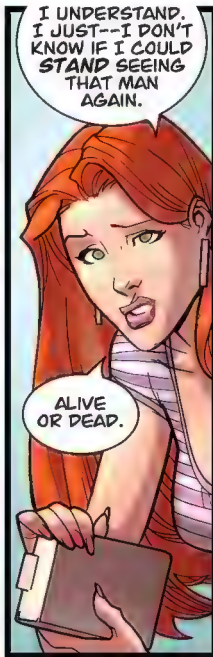
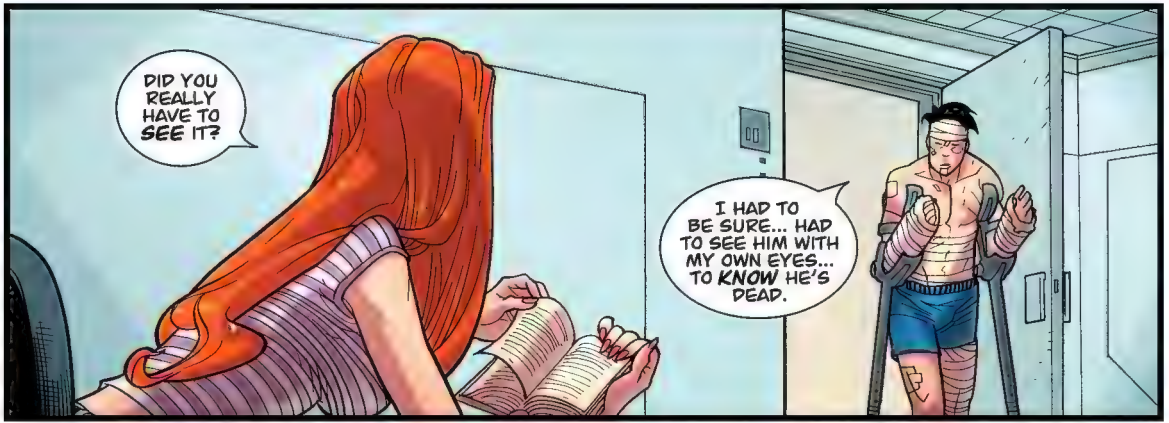












...WE DIDN'T GET ALONG AT FIRST. HE WAS ALWAYS PUSHING MY BUTTONS.

HUH.

BUTTONS... ROBOT... HE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT WAS FUNNY. I'D BE LYING IF I SAID I DIDN'T LIKE HIM AT FIRST, THE TRUTH IS, I IDOLIZED HIM. HE WAS ALWAYS SO CONFIDENT, SO SURE OF HIMSELF AT ALL TIMES.

AND NOW HE'S GONE. I WILL MISS HIM MORE THAN I CAN EVER SAY.

HE WAS EVERYTHING I WANTED TO BE...

I'VE LIVED MOST OF MY LIFE THROUGH DRONES LIKE THE ONE YOU SEE BEFORE YOU NOW. I HAVE ALWAYS SIMPLY BEEN "ROBOT." I HAVE NEVER BEEN COMFORTABLE USING MY GIVEN NAME-- IT REMINDS ME OF THE DISFIGURED BODY I INHABITED MOST OF MY LIFE... BEFORE I TRANSFERRED MYSELF INTO A CLONED BODY OF MY OLDEST FRIEND.

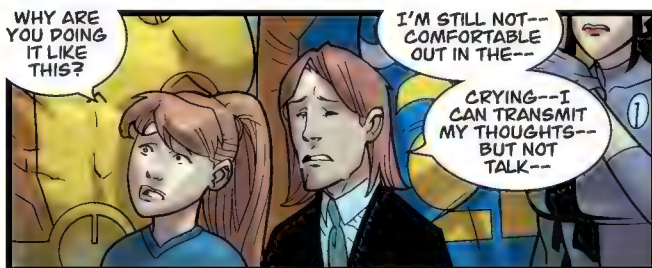
IN HONOR OF THIS FALLEN HERO, I'VE DECIDED THAT I WILL TAKE HIS NAME. I AM CHANGING MY NAME TO "REX." THAT MUCH OF HIM, AT LEAST, WILL LIVE ON.

HE WILL BE MISSED.

I ONLY HOPE THAT I CAN LIVE UP TO HIS SACRIFICE. HE DIED--SAVING LIVES.



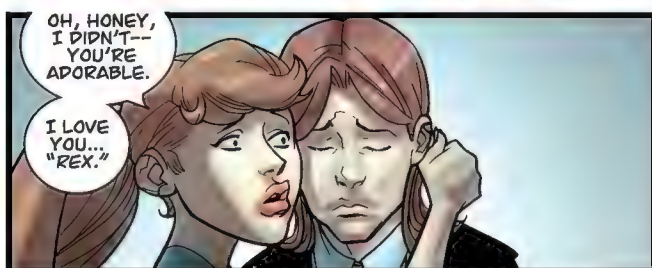
NOW I BELIEVE ATOM EVE WANTED TO SAY A FEW WORDS.



WHY ARE YOU DOING IT LIKE THIS?

I'M STILL NOT-- COMFORTABLE OUT IN THE--

CRYING--I CAN TRANSMIT MY THOUGHTS-- BUT NOT TALK--



OH, HONEY, I DIDN'T-- YOU'RE ADORABLE.

I LOVE YOU... "REX."



REX SPOKE WAS...

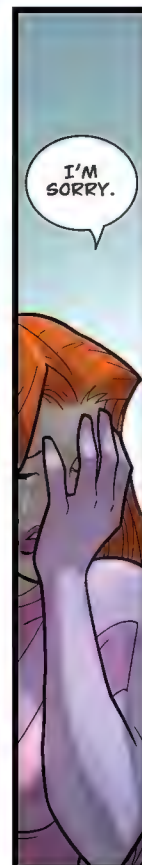
HE WAS MY FIRST... EVERYTHING...



HE WAS...



...



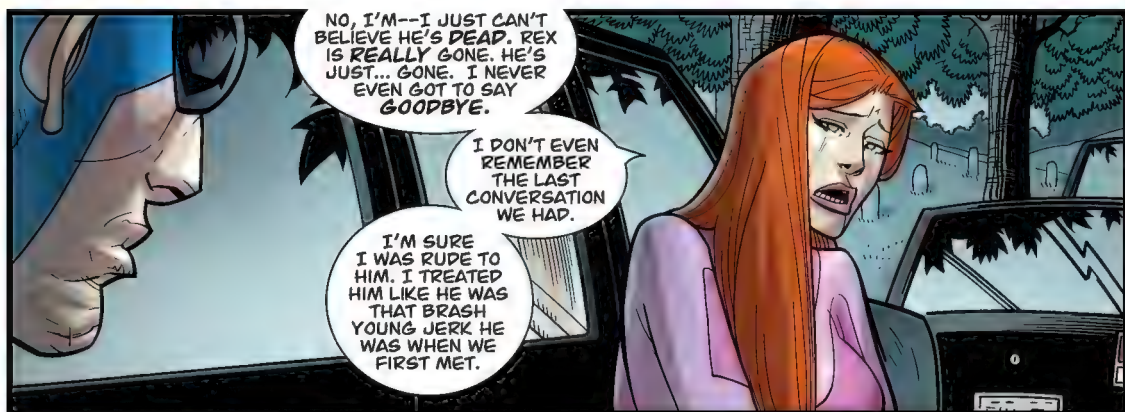
I'M SORRY.





EVE?
ARE YOU
OKAY?

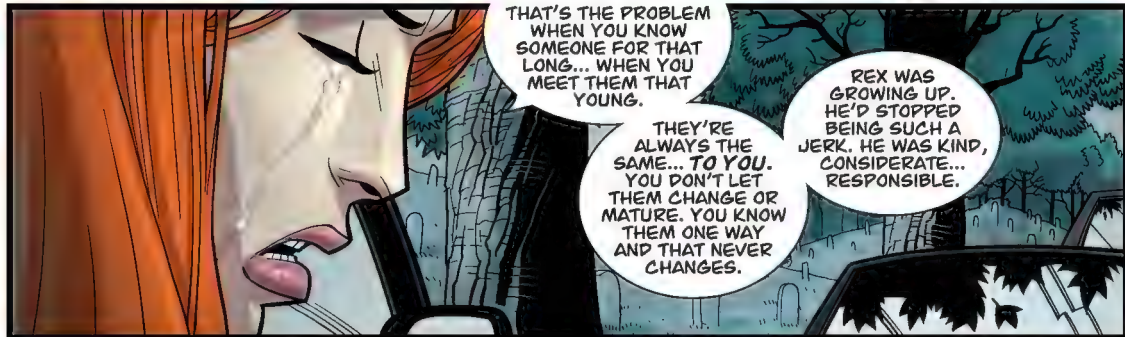
MARK?



NO, I'M--I JUST CAN'T
BELIEVE HE'S DEAD. REX
IS REALLY GONE. HE'S
JUST... GONE. I NEVER
EVEN GOT TO SAY
GOODBYE.

I DON'T EVEN
REMEMBER
THE LAST
CONVERSATION
WE HAD.

I'M SURE
I WAS RUDE TO
HIM. I TREATED
HIM LIKE HE WAS
THAT BRASH
YOUNG JERK HE
WAS WHEN WE
FIRST MET.



THAT'S THE PROBLEM
WHEN YOU KNOW
SOMEONE FOR THAT
LONG... WHEN YOU
MEET THEM THAT
YOUNG.

THEY'RE
ALWAYS THE
SAME... TO YOU.
YOU DON'T LET
THEM CHANGE OR
MATURE. YOU KNOW
THEM ONE WAY
AND THAT NEVER
CHANGES.

REX WAS
GROWING UP.
HE'D STOPPED
BEING SUCH A
JERK. HE WAS KIND,
CONSIDERATE...
RESPONSIBLE.



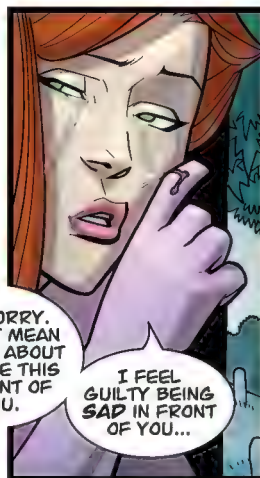
HE WAS AN
ADULT... AND
I NEVER GAVE
HIM A
CHANCE.

I NEVER
ALLOWED MYSELF
TO SEE HOW MUCH
HE'D CHANGED.
HE MEANT SO
MUCH TO ME
AND HE--



WHAT?
WHAT IS
IT?

I'M SORRY.
I DON'T MEAN
TO TALK ABOUT
HIM LIKE THIS
IN FRONT OF
YOU.



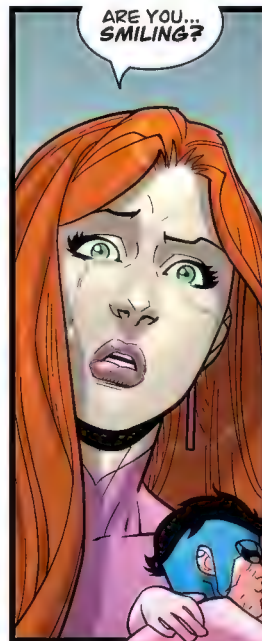
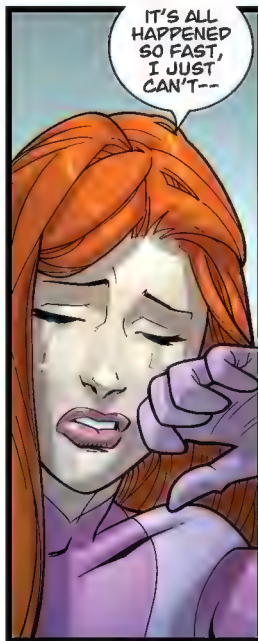
I FEEL
GUILTY BEING
SAD IN FRONT
OF YOU...



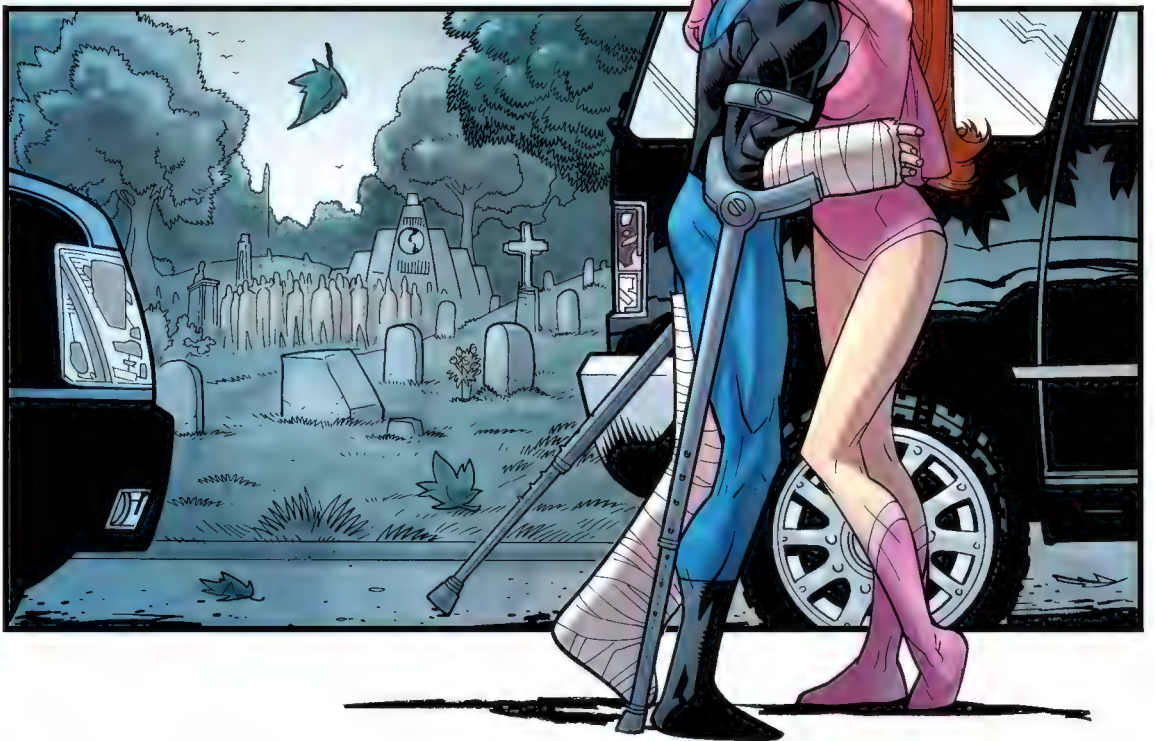
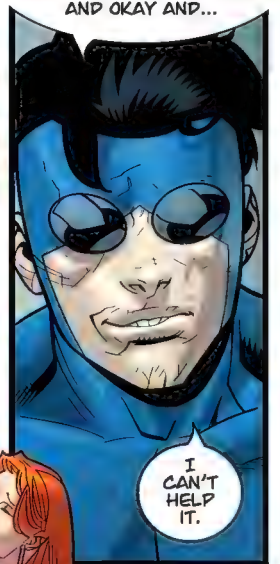
WHY?

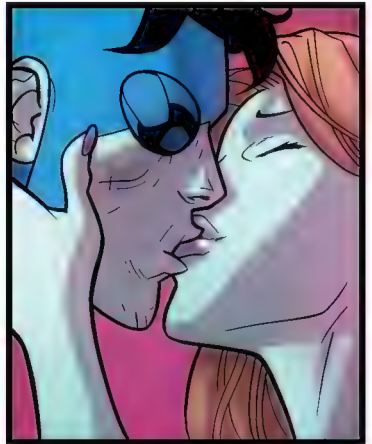
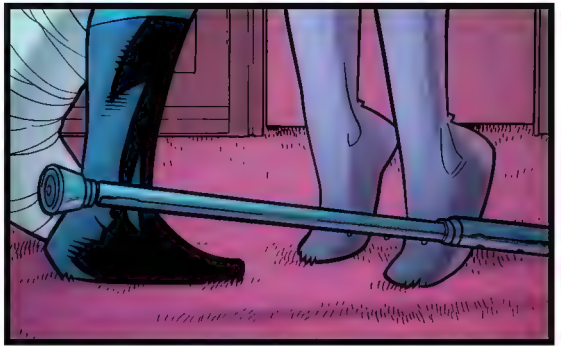
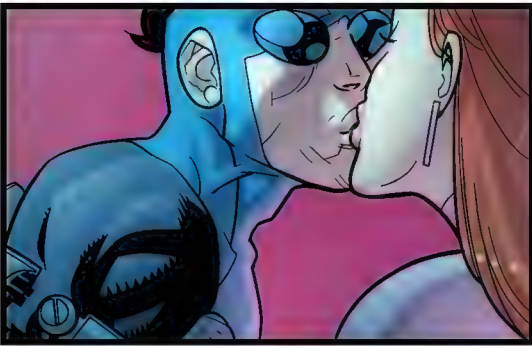
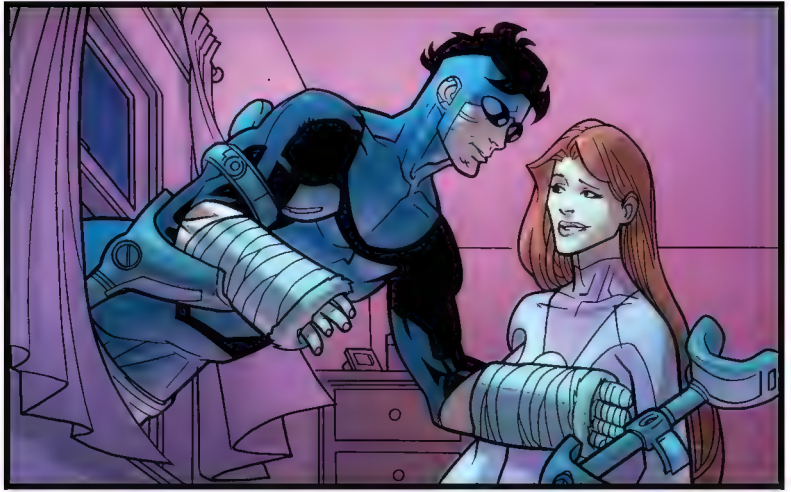


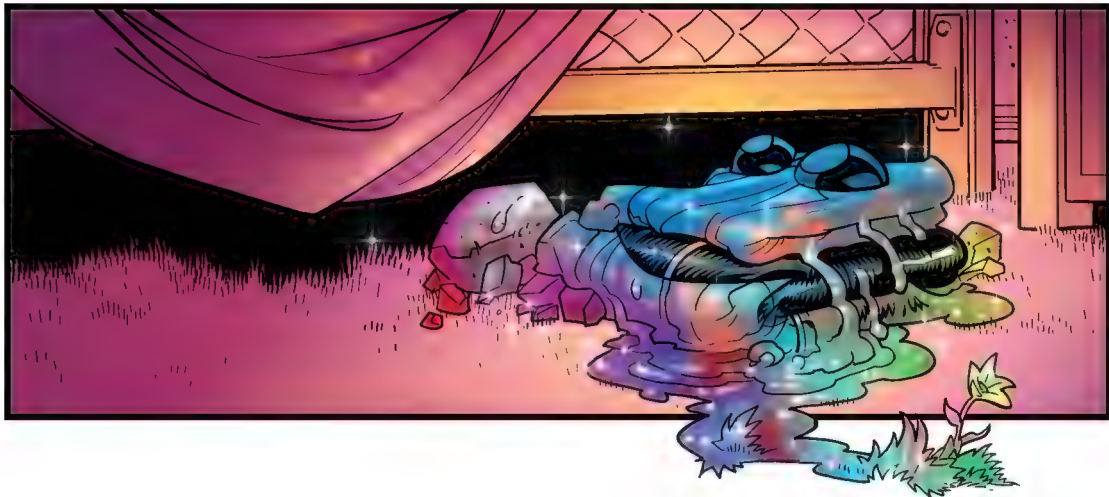
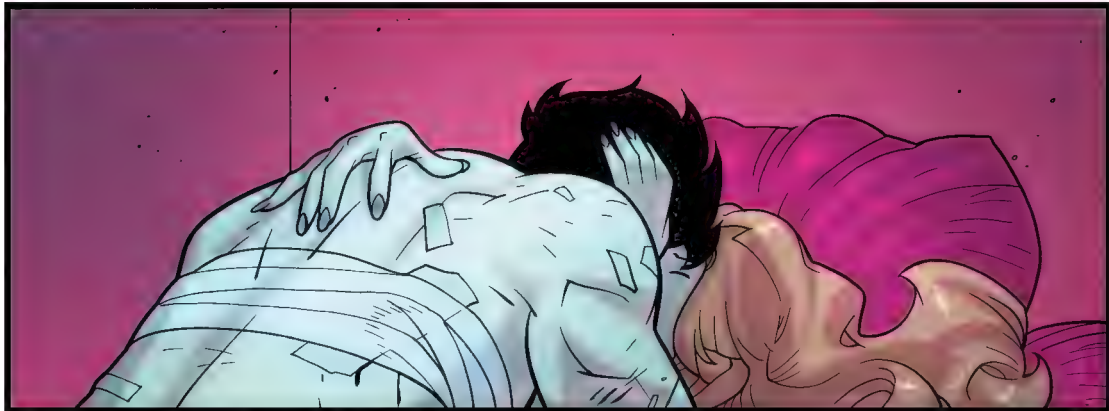
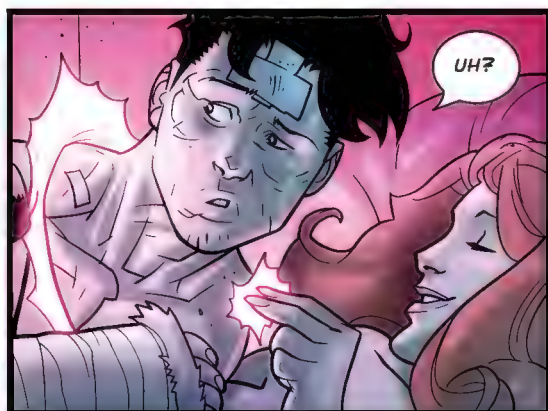
I'M A WRECK, I JUST--IT'S BEEN SO HARD, I CAME OUT OF MY COMA, YOU WERE FIGHTING CONQUEST-- I REBUILT MYSELF.



I'M SORRY, I JUST... I THOUGHT I'D LOST YOU. I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT HOW YOU'RE HERE AND OKAY AND...









WELL?



REMARKABLE.

IT BARELY
FEELS LIKE IT'S
NOT MY OWN
HAND--I HAVE
COMPLETE CONTROL
AND FEELING. VERY
IMPRESSIVE.



NOW.

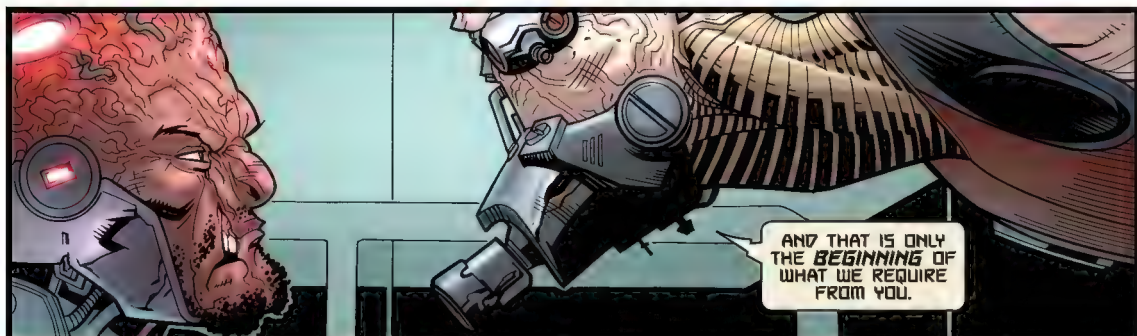
WHAT
IS IT YOU
WANT
FROM
ME?



ANGSTROM LEVY, YOU
HAVE WITNESSED FIRST
HAND WHAT OUR...
AMBITIONS HAVE DONE
TO THIS WORLD.

YOU HAVE BORNE
WITNESS TO WHAT
WE HAVE HAD TO
DO TO OURSELVES
IN ORDER TO
SURVIVE HERE.

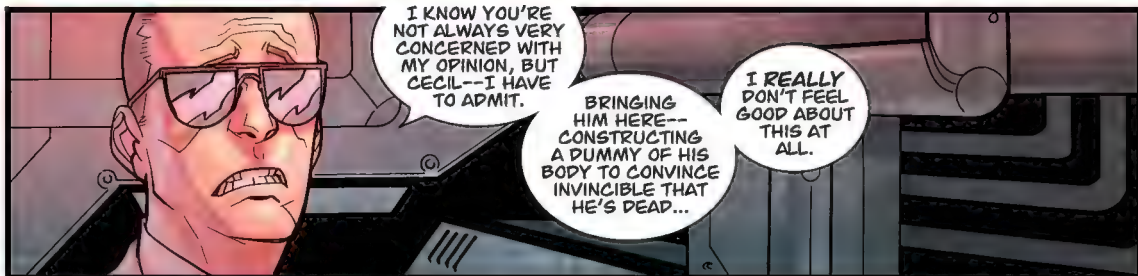
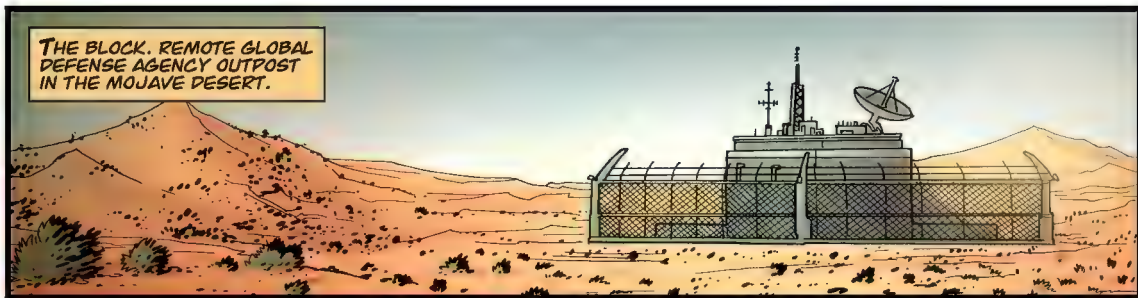
WHAT MAKES
YOU THINK WE
WOULD WANT TO
STAY HERE?



AND THAT IS ONLY
THE **BEGINNING** OF
WHAT WE REQUIRE
FROM YOU.



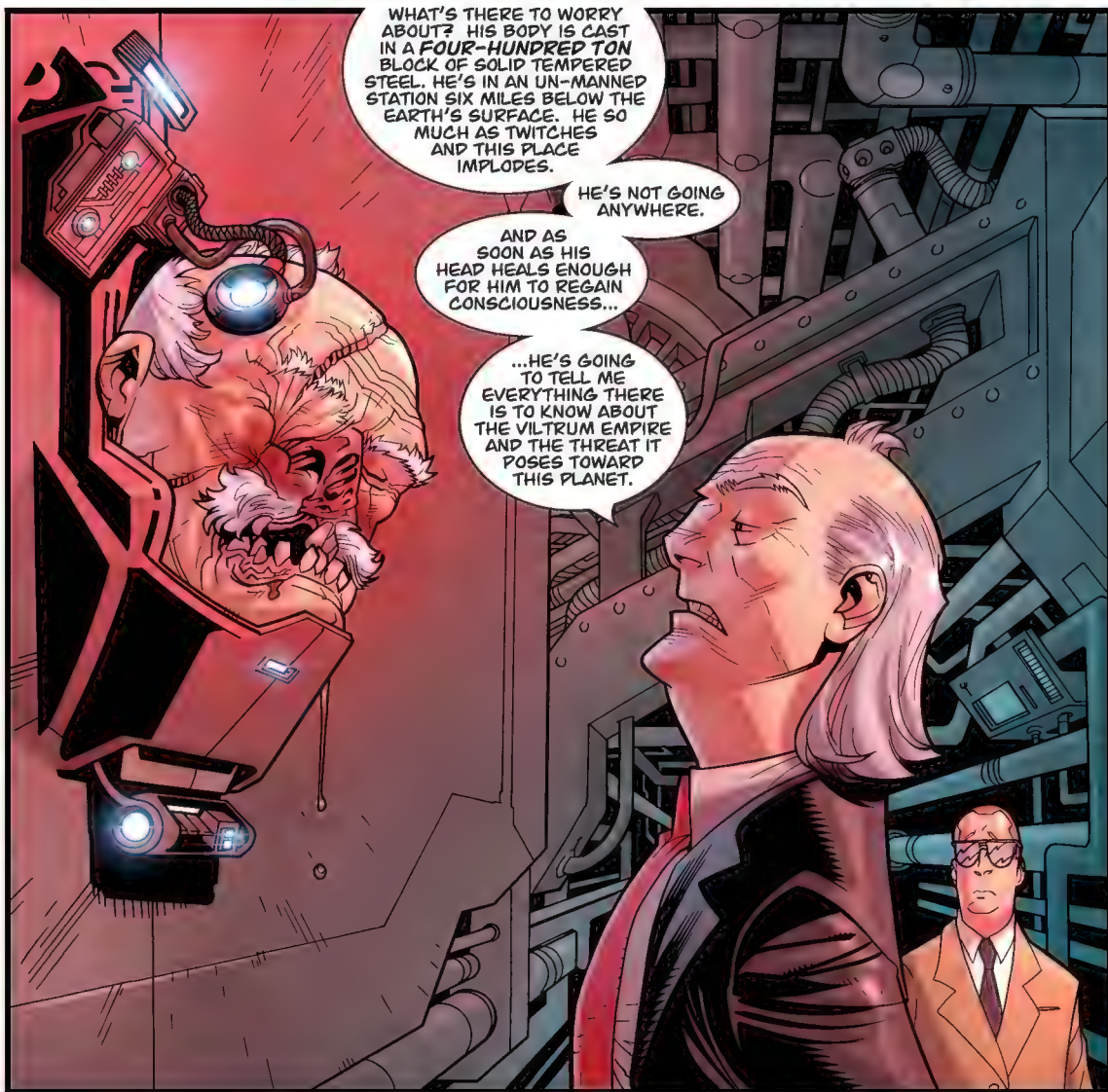
THE BLOCK. REMOTE GLOBAL
DEFENSE AGENCY OUTPOST
IN THE MOJAVE DESERT.



I KNOW YOU'RE
NOT ALWAYS VERY
CONCERNED WITH
MY OPINION, BUT
CECIL--I HAVE
TO ADMIT.

BRINGING
HIM HERE--
CONSTRUCTING
A DUMMY OF HIS
BODY TO CONVINCE
INVINCIBLE THAT
HE'S DEAD...

I REALLY
DON'T FEEL
GOOD ABOUT
THIS AT
ALL.

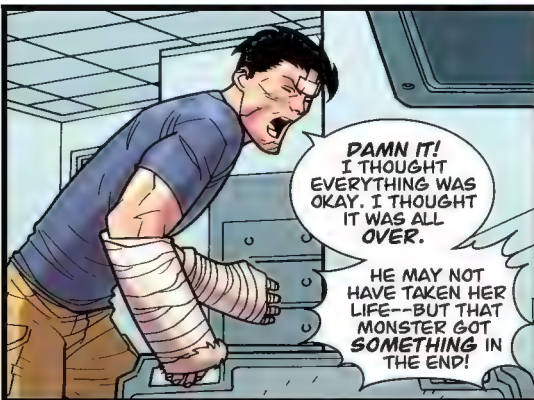
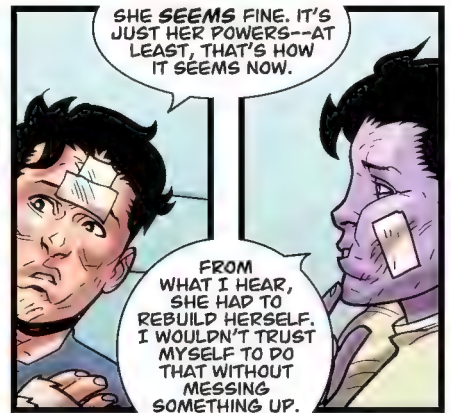
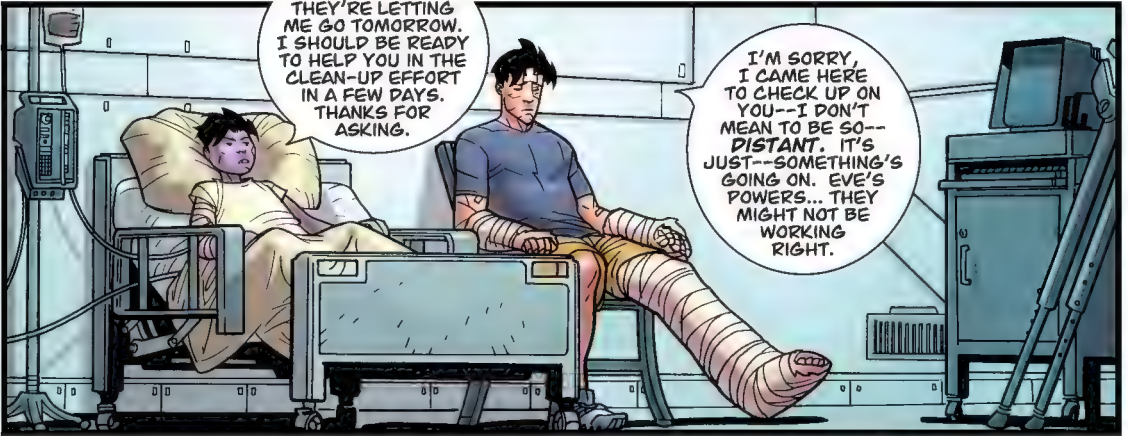
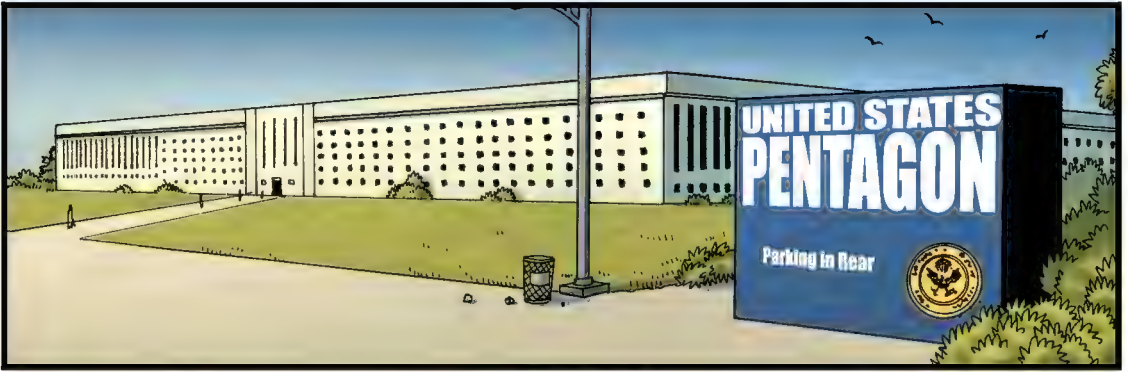


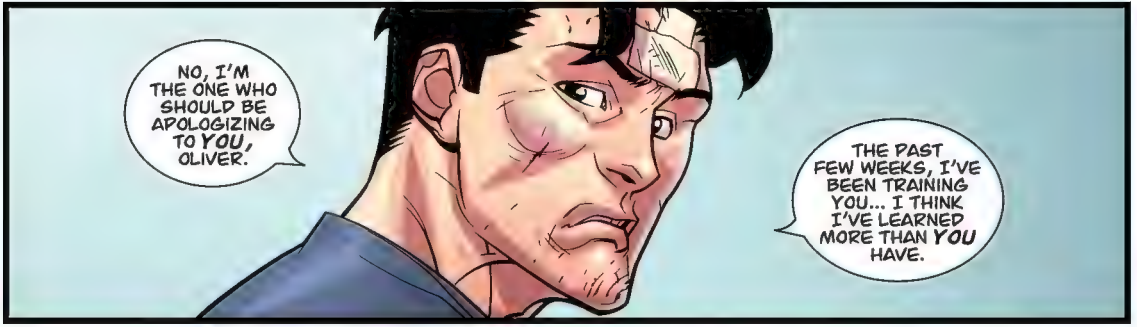
WHAT'S THERE TO WORRY
ABOUT? HIS BODY IS CAST
IN A FOUR-HUNDRED TON
BLOCK OF SOLID TEMPERED
STEEL. HE'S IN AN UN-MANNED
STATION SIX MILES BELOW THE
EARTH'S SURFACE. HE SO
MUCH AS TWITCHES
AND THIS PLACE
IMPLODES.

HE'S NOT GOING
ANYWHERE.

AND AS
SOON AS HIS
HEAD HEALS ENOUGH
FOR HIM TO REGAIN
CONSCIOUSNESS...

...HE'S GOING
TO TELL ME
EVERYTHING THERE
IS TO KNOW ABOUT
THE VILTRUM EMPIRE
AND THE THREAT IT
POSES TOWARD
THIS PLANET.





NO, I'M
THE ONE WHO
SHOULD BE
APOLOGIZING
TO YOU,
OLIVER.

THE PAST
FEW WEEKS, I'VE
BEEN TRAINING
YOU... I THINK
I'VE LEARNED
MORE THAN YOU
HAVE.

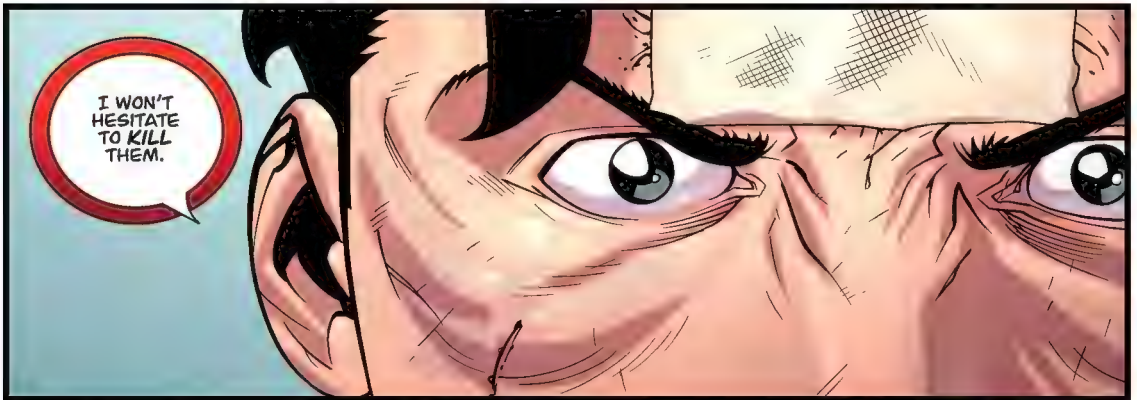


I SCOLDED
YOU... I YELLED
AT YOU--THOUGHT
I KNEW BETTER.
I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
MISGUIDED,
NAIVE--

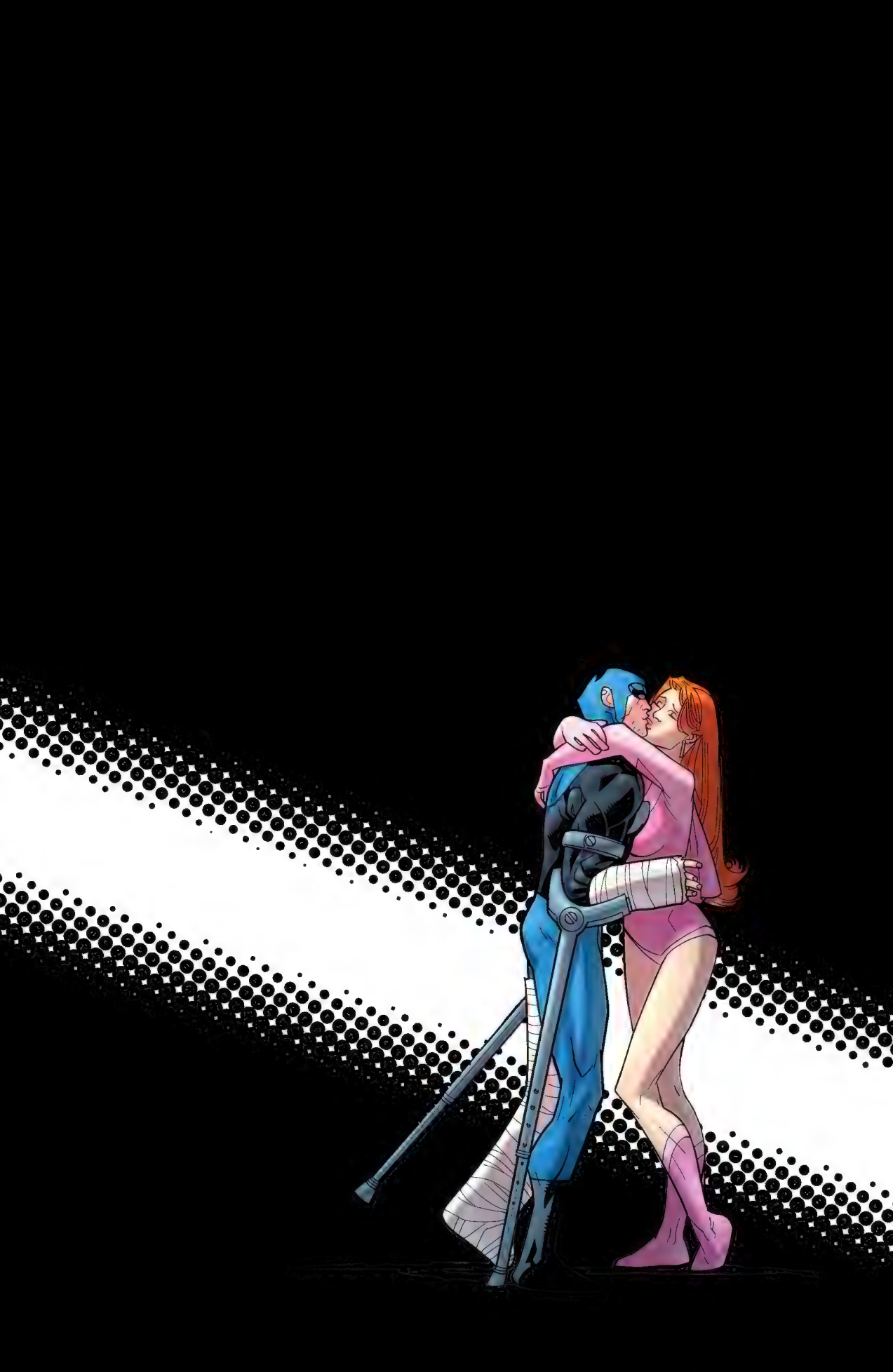
I WAS
WRONG.

YOU WERE
RIGHT THE
WHOLE TIME--
BUT I'VE
LEARNED MY
LESSON.

SOMEONE
TRIES TO HURT
MY FAMILY--
SOMEONE I LOVE--
IF THERE'S ANOTHER
VILLAIN OUT THERE
PUTTING LIVES IN
DANGER--WHO'S
JUST GOING TO
KEEP COMING AT
ME UNTIL THEY
FINALLY
SUCCEED...



I WON'T
HESITATE
TO KILL
THEM.



SKETCHBOOK



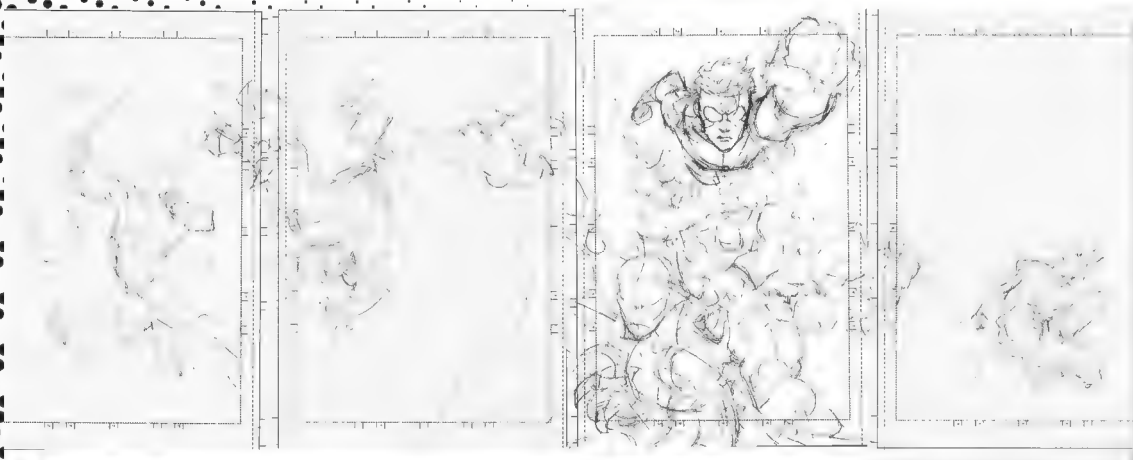
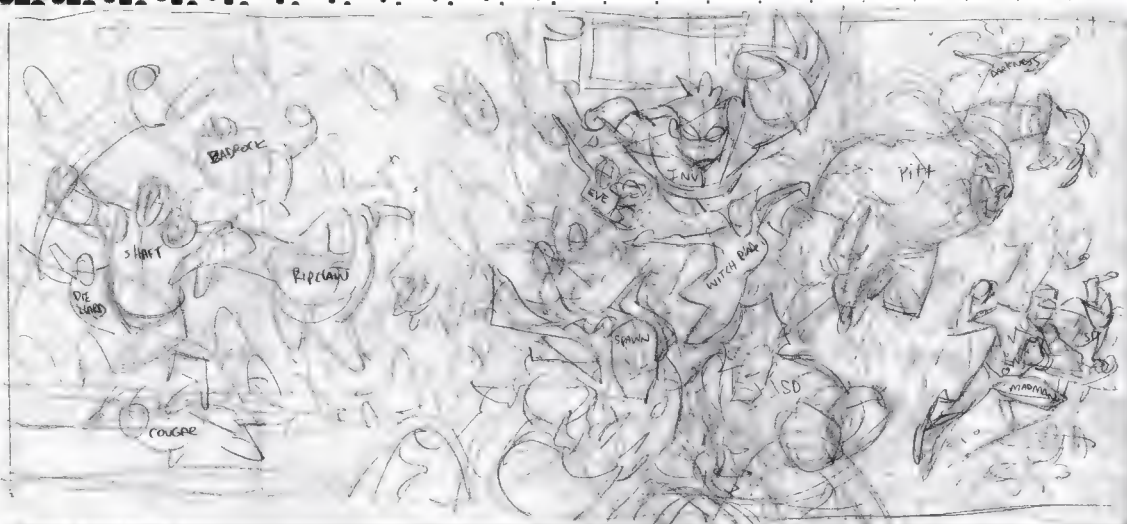
ROBERT KIRKMAN: The volume 12 cover is my new favorite TPB cover. I just love it. Great stuff by Ryan as always. On this page you'll find his sketch for the cover, which was awesome, but I'm a stickler for consistency and thought it deviated from your paneled cover theme a bit too much. So the panel scheme was worked in, as you can see on the following page.

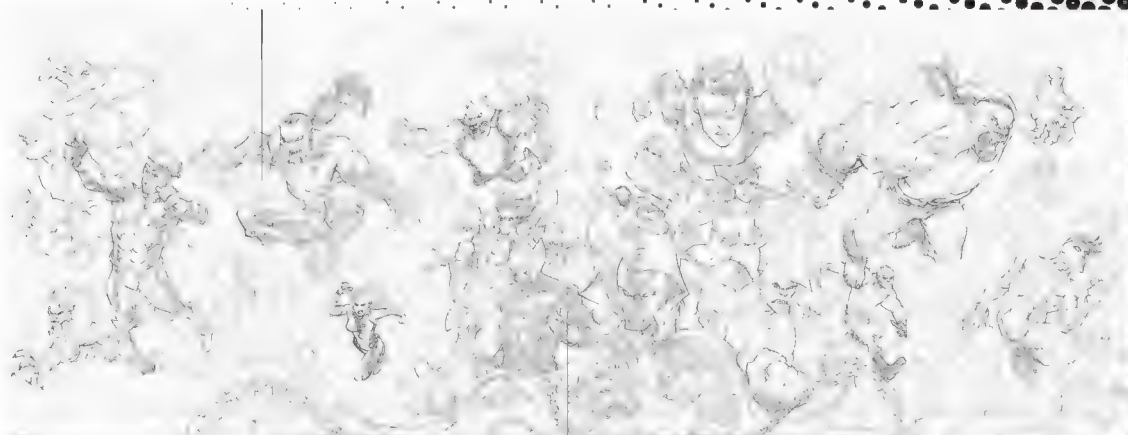
RYAN OTTLEY: Cough. I just walked home in the rain. All I want is to curl up in front of the TV, but this is fine too. I guess. Sigh. No I like the panels added in too. It was a good idea. I can't wait to draw those alternate Invincible guys again, bring back Angstrom and tha boys!



KIRKMAN: On the following two pages you'll see various stages of the cover to *Invincible* 60, which was four pages wide. That's pretty cool. As I recall it was extremely easy to draw and took no time at all--right Ryan?

OTTLEY: You are mean to me. Your big ideas that take a split second to conjure up always take me weeks to create. I think this bastard took me two weeks total (well, 9-10 days). I pencilled it all the way to finished tight pencils hoping to get an inker. It didn't happen. But that's ok, it's nice doing something like this while the regular series gets more and more late. ;) Heh.









KIRKMAN: And on these two pages you'll see Ryan's inks for this cover. I tell you, every so often in this series there's a cover that comes along that makes this book seem way more awesome than I ever thought possible. I mean, look at this thing. I can't believe we got clearance to use all these characters. It's so cool to see them all together, awesome stuff.

OTTEY: I loved drawing all these guys. I was an uber geek fan of Spawn, Pitt, Cyberforce, and others and all their creators. It's odd and a bit masochistic of me but a part of me wants to draw this cover all over again. Not just because I enjoyed it, but to draw them a little differently than I did here. I guess I always see past art and I just wish I could do it all over and make it better. Kinda weird. It's the only job where I've felt this way. I never felt like doing inventory over again when I worked in a warehouse. Hmm.



KIRKMAN: Here are the inks for the cover to 61. I believe this is the first finished drawing of Conquest, what fun that guy is. Great cover, perfect set up for the Conquest story. Lots of mystery to it.

OTTLEY: Count the dead bodies in the rubble. Win a pony.



KIRKMAN: This cover was a bear. I wasn't thrilled with the figures because it looked, to me, like they were dancing instead of fighting. Ryan, prince that he is, changed them, but not before sending over a version to show me what dancing actually looks like. What a talented man you are, Ryan.

OTTLEY: I must be terrible at drawing people fighting sometimes because, every once in a while, Robert will say, "Re-draw it, looks like they're dancing." To which I say "NOOOOOOOOOO it does NOT!?! WTF is WRONG with you!?! ARRGH...ok fine." It's funny because the drawing where I was actually TRYING to show them dancing looks like Mark is getting bopped on the head! Man I can't do nothin right!





KIRKMAN: The cover to *Invincible* 63. You gotta love that exposed bone. I asked for a shot of Mark beat up more than he'd ever been beat up before in the comic--man, did Ryan deliver.

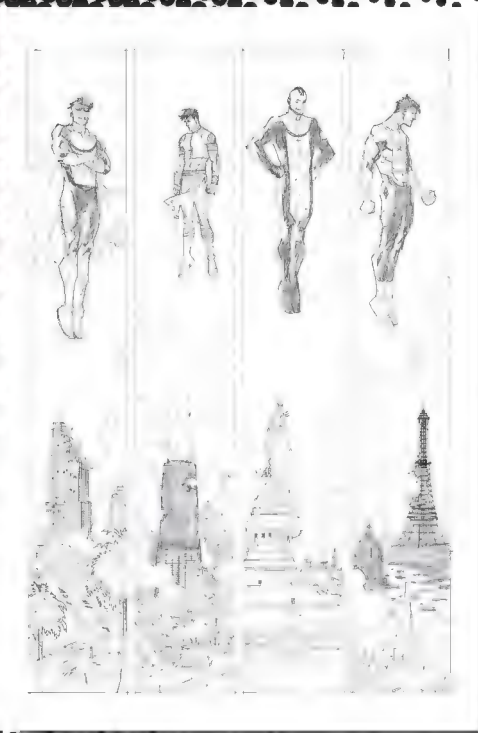
OTTLEY: You said exposed bone. Sorry.



KIRKMAN: The cover to 65, which, like most of Ryan's covers, is awesome. And was a cool call back to the cover to issue 8 by mister Cory Walker.

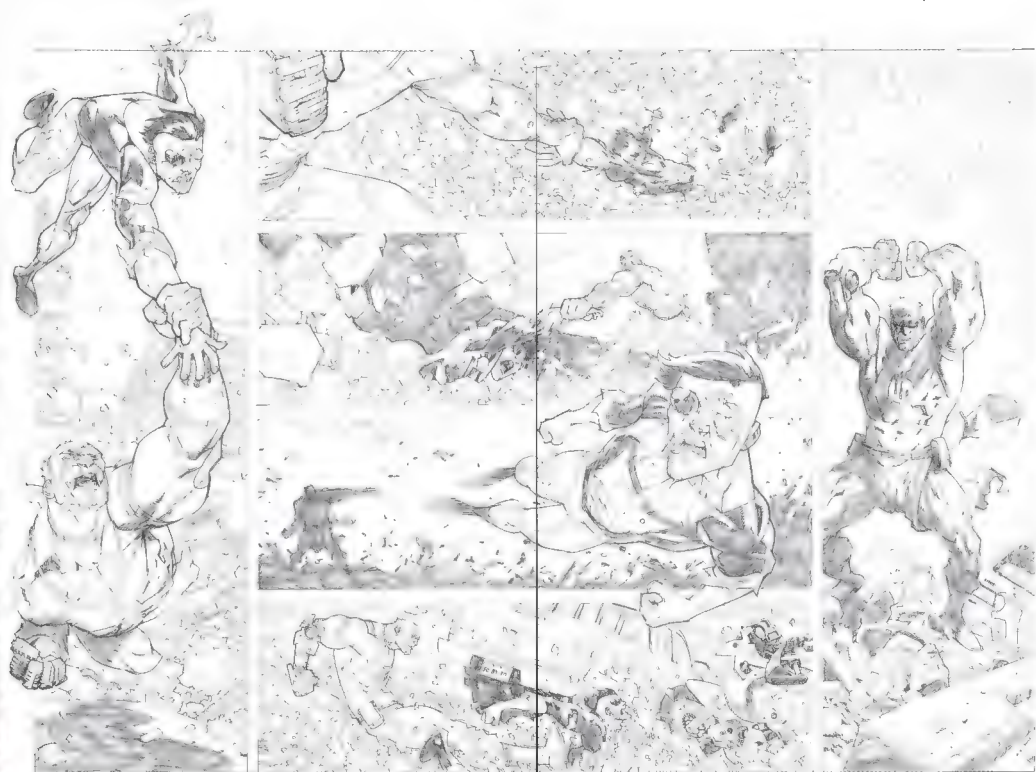
OTTLEY: I have a hard time when asked to re-draw something, especially when Cory initially drew it. There's no way I can come close to the way Cory does his work, he has such a solid foundation and a great design aspect to everything that makes his work so perfectly original. I tried to do a nice call back but it wasn't near as good.





KIRKMAN: Some pages. And yes, I did have Ryan remove the torch from Lady Liberty's butt. Sorry. Also, a splash from issue 61 and a spread from issue 63. Beautiful stuff.

OTTLEY: *I imagined the mohawked alternative Invincible would be someone who liked not only to destroy things but to desecrate them as well. So I thought the torch up the statue's buttocks was completely acceptable and I still do. It added a bit more depth to the character. Robert thought it was silly, I thought it was awesome, and I know firsthand that Mohawk Invincible found it extremely amusing.*





KIRKMAN: Ah, the two-page spread of a head. I went through a period where I tried to write as many of these as possible, because they're awesome. I believe I bought all the originals. Check my books, this happened a lot. I need to do one of these in Astounding Wolf-Man... oh, wait--I just thought of the perfect place. Check out issue 24 of that book. Oh, and also on this page you'll see the two-page spread of Invincible smashing Conquest's robot arm. Amazing stuff, should have probably talked about that spread more. Ryan?

OTTLEY: Can we please have one or two of the close-ups on heads double-page spreads in every issue? I know I loved drawing it. And of course the punching INTO Conquest's arm page was great fun as well. Visualizing Mark's hand going inside that robot arm was interesting. Like Mark's fist went into the robot hand and the robot fingers curled inward and everything else burst outward. Good times.



CONQUEST



← REMOTE CONTROL ARM
DETACHES AND TRANSFORMS
INTO SMALLER ROBOT
TRAINED IN VILTRUMITE
FIGHTING TECHNIQUES.
BADASS!

KIRKMAN: Oh boy, Conquest's initial designs. Y'know, whenever you see a silver-haired buff old man with scars and a metal arm, I know you might start thinking about a certain character introduced in the '90s but I swear that was never our intention. Odd coincidence, especially considering how much I love said unnamed character.

OTTLEY: Yeah but ours has a mustache. Beat that!





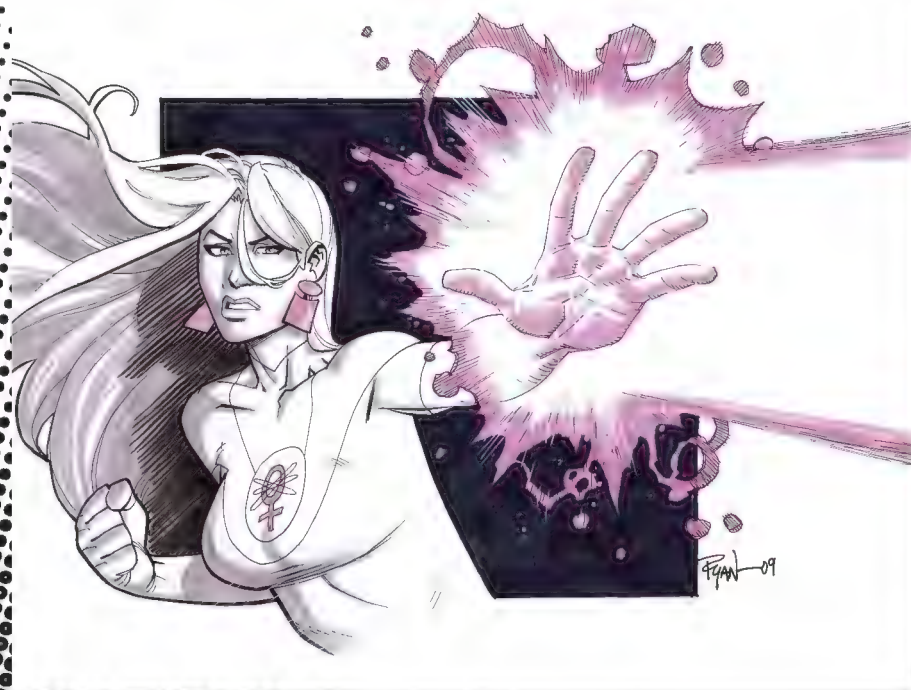
KIRKMAN: This, I think, is the best drawing Ryan has ever done. This pencil-shaded Conquest drawing is just amazing. I love it.

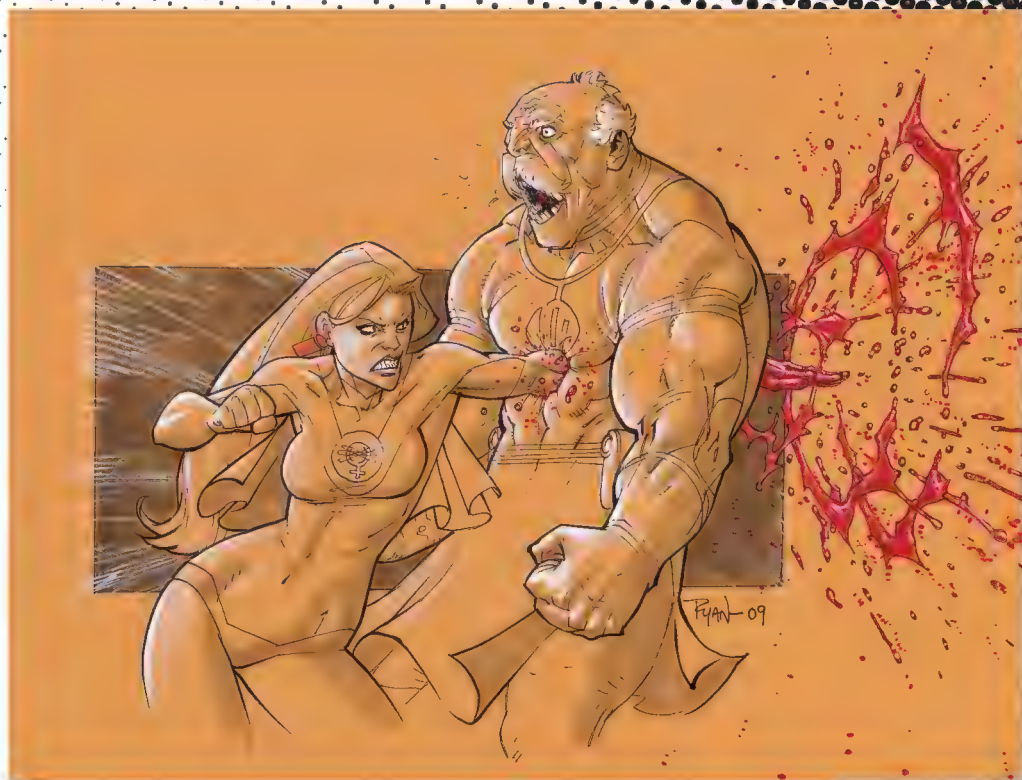
OTTLEY: I gotta find time to do more stuff like this. I was doing a lot of life drawing sessions at this time and was having fun with the rendering, one day I decided to break out the pencils and do up this Conquest. I'll do more as soon as I find time.



KIRKMAN: Convention sketches of Atom Eve. Whoever sees Ryan at a convention should really pay him lots of money for sketches like these--because you'll get awesome sketches, like these.

OTTLEY: Or even not like these! Whatever you wants!





KIRKMAN: Conquest convention sketches. Some fan asked for Eve punching a hole in Conquest-- and it's just awesome. I wish I owned that sketch. Brilliant stuff. Way to go, fan of this comic!

OTTLEY: HA! Yeah fans always give me some great ideas at conventions. Way too much fun.





KIRKMAN: Sketches of Invincible and Atom Eve, so romantic. No doubt, these sketches were requested by girls, right Ryan?

OTTLEY: *Actually no, guys like romance too, Robert.*





KIRKMAN: Eve versus an awesome monster (need to do more stuff like that in the book) and Invincible versus some character I don't recognize... S-Man? Something like that.

OTTLEY: I've honestly never even heard of the character before. But that's what the guy asked for. The monster one with the tiny Atom Eve was great, no one has ever asked for a TINY drawing of Eve before. I've always had fun with monsters. Fun fact: I didn't read comics until I was 15. So what was I drawing for all those years before I knew anything about superheroes? Tons of weird faces and monsters, and lots of violence. My red crayons were always the shortest.



KIRKMAN: Another brilliant fan asked for a shot of the alternate Invincible who mentioned that he'd killed Spawn doing exactly that. Neat.

OTTLEY: I liked the idea. Let's not show Todd though. His noogies always hurt the worst.





Ryan

KIRKMAN: And now for a magnificent drawing of Omni-Man. What a steal this art-buyer got, no matter what he paid. Neat stuff.

OTTLEY: Thanks Robert! Until next time, Stay coo.

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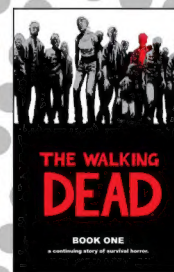
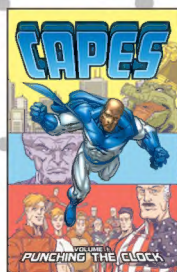
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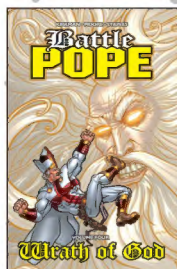
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